

'The next few days - some would say the next 48 hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state'

Beirut battle rages as Lebanon drifts to civil war

Robert Fisk

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Only hours after his army thrust into the heart of West Beirut and pushed back Muslim militias who had seized large parts of the city, President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon last night offered his political opponents what he called "national reconciliation dialogue" that would lay the framework for a new unified country.

Brave words though they were, Mr Gemayel's offer was immediately rejected by Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze militia leader, who described it as treachery. While the fighting died down last night, Lebanon's drift towards renewed civil war has thus not been halted.

West Beirut again came under a fierce and indiscriminate artillery bombardment during the evening as Lebanese troops desperately tried to continue a three-pronged attack across the west of the city in a last effort to dislodge Muslim gunmen and prop up Mr Gemayel's Government. An unofficial ceasefire took hold last night after street fighting had engulfed the capital and a rain of shells ripped across the rooftops of the Muslim sector of the capital.

As the Lebanese Cabinet sat in conclave throughout the day, shells exploding around their yellow stone palace, Mr Robert McNamee, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, arrived back in the city, reportedly in a mood of the deepest despair. Lebanese Army units staged a helicopter landing at one point on the Beirut seaport to drive Muslim militias into the heart of the city, but 14 hours later they had pushed almost two miles into the capital.

Fisk's report was then interrupted by this service message: **Suiper fire all round office at moment and Lebanese soldier just reached AP Bureau. Will follow when it's safe to sit rather than kneel beside machine. Regards.**

Beirut state radio blamed the Syrians for the bombardment of the city. There is not a shadow of doubt that the shells that landed across Christian East Beirut and on the coastal road north to Jounieh were fired by Syrian or Druze gunners in the Meta mountains to the north-east of the city, but the projectiles that

crashed into the west of the capital were certainly not fired from Syrian positions, which are 14 miles away.

Indeed, for much of the day, it was possible to hear the artillery that fired the shells, the guns booming three or four seconds before the shells landed, evidently fired by Christian Phalangist militias or the Lebanese Army itself. The sound of artillery inevitable came from the east.

Just before dark, Lebanese troops fought their way as far as the Commodore Hotel, the centre of the international press corps in Lebanon. Soldiers ran up lawns beside the building firing bursts of sub-machine gun fire at snipers still holding out on nearby rooftops. At one point rifle fire went on continuously for five minutes until Lebanese tanks began blasting neighbouring streets.

In a high-speed car drive across the ruined port and past the Lebanese Army's front line just before nightfall, I saw every evidence that the Lebanese Army was fighting to hold on to at least one of its attacks. Lebanese soldiers, their battle dress streaked with grime, their foreheads swathed in bandages and their shoulders draped with ammunition pouches were lying in gunners and perched on rooftops as they tried to dislodge dozens of Shia Muslim gunmen in the Wadi Abu Jamil district. Not far from the American University hospital, they had lined up their tanks at the north-eastern end of Hamra Street - once the smartest shopping precinct in Beirut - and firing down the tree-lined boulevard.

In shop doorways and side streets, teenage gunmen, some armed only with small silver-plated pistols, fired back in desultory fashion, prepared to retreat under the hail of shells that crashed into the apartments around them. As the city resounded to the thunder of explosions, it was impossible not to recall the same sound seven years ago when Lebanon was torn apart in anarchy and sectarian battles by Christian and Muslim militias. Now the Lebanese Army is fighting to preserve Mr Gemayel's administration - and United States policy in Lebanon - but the fact remains that Lebanese are again fighting Lebanese in the centre of the capital.

There were also painful parallels to last year's Israeli bombardment of West Beirut. The shelling of the city yesterday by Syrians, Druze, leftist militias and almost certainly the Lebanese Army was just as indiscriminate and just as brutal. Ambulances raced through the streets all day, civilians waiting and headlights flashing to warn soldiers that the curfew was being broken for humanitarian reasons.

During the late afternoon, shells were landing so close to the offices of the Associated Press news agency - where *The Times* has its base in Beirut - that cordite smoke drifted through the rooms. Near-defeating explosions shook the buildings. One shell landed so close to me that I saw the yellow and white flash of the detonation scarcely 20 yards away before tons of sheet glass came crashing into the roadway.

From the safety of Damascus, Mr Jumblatt, the Druze leader, issued a series of almost frantic diatribes against Mr Gemayel, referring to him as "a butcher" and insisting that the Lebanese Army's attack into West Beirut constituted "a new carnage similar to the Sabra and Chatila (Palestinian) massacre".

Since Mr Jumblatt's own militia, along with the Syrians, were contributing mightily to the bloodshed, this statement was - to say the least - something more than dishonest.

Also in the Syrian capital, the regional office of the "Amal" Shia militia condemned what it called the massacre of Muslims in Beirut, although Mr Saeb Salam, Continued on back page, col 3



Sihia fighters armed with rocket-propelled grenades advance toward a Lebanese Army position yesterday

Solidarity protesters clash with police

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The acrid whiff of tear gas again perfumed the streets of Poland yesterday as Solidarity supporters in many towns and cities demonstrated for their banned union on the third anniversary of the Gdansk agreement which brought it into existence.

Many demonstrations were small and good-natured - ironic clapping of the militia - some, as in Gdansk, were large and tense, others, large and violent.

In Nowa Huta, the steel city near Cracow, demonstrators were said to have stoned trains and police used batons and tear gas to break up the crowd.

In Wroclaw, demonstrators tried to lay wreaths at the grave of a demonstrator killed in protests on August 31 last year, but police stopped them and sealed off the area.

In Gdansk, Mr Lech Walesa, former leader of the union, was the focus of demonstrations. He had been forbidden to give a speech at the crosses near the Lenin shipyard gates - scene of the strike in 1980 that created Solidarity - but he and thousands of other workers streamed out of the yards and marched to a church.

He told the crowd he would lay flowers at the crosses at 4pm and shouting and chanting their support, the workers accompanied him there. But riot police had surrounded the monument and an officer called out: "only Mr Walesa will be allowed to lay flowers."

The workers waited angrily, but in the end he laid his flowers and wreaths on to Mr Walesa, who took them, staggering slightly under the weight, to the monument.

The solidarity underground had called for a boycott of public transport when workers change shifts at factories, so as to have thousands of them streaming through the streets, perhaps chanting Solidarity slogans. The plan, however, was only partially realised.

The police presence was strong throughout towns and cities: in the Warsaw city centre militiamen could be seen running after youths shouting "gestapo".

The most typical incident for a day that will no doubt be hailed by the Government as another victory against Solidarity came outside the Ursus tractor factory, near Warsaw. Most workers ignored the transport boycott call, but a few hundred marched around a housing estate, shouting "Zbyszak Bułak" (a former Ursus worker and underground leader) and making victory signs. They took a route followed in the early days after imposition of martial law.

Then, there were thousands of protesters, but yesterday there were barely 250.

The Government is determined to show that it has almost completely defeated the Solidarity underground.

Officers freed then seized in Harare

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Joy among High Court spectators at the acquittal of six Zimbabwe Air Force officers on sabotage charges turned to fury and bitterness yesterday when they were immediately rearrested.

As the officers - four of whom hold dual British-Zimbabwean nationality - were led back to the cells in handcuffs relatives and friends outside the court shouted: "Shame" and "Bastards". Wives who minutes before had clutched their husbands, smiling, looked shocked and wept.

The orders, made under section 17 of the Emergency Powers Act and providing for indefinite detention, were signed by Dr Herbert Ukwonga, the Minister of Home Affairs, and are bound to attract censure in London and Washington.

The High Court was packed when Mr Justice Dumbutshena, the Judge President, started to deliver judgment on charges that the officers assisted in the sabotage of a dozen fighter aircraft at Thornhill air base in July 1982. The operation, which devastated Zimbabwe's air defences, was alleged to have been carried out by three South African agents.

Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater, former Deputy Commander of the Air Force, Air Commodore Philip File, Wing-Commander Peter Briscoe, Wing-Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir had all pleaded not guilty.

Mr Justice Dumbutshena, Zimbabwe's first black High Court judge and a respected figure in the nationalist movement prior

British Gas to shed thousands of jobs

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The State-owned British Gas corporation is planning to shed between 10,000 and 20,000 of its 101,000 employees by the end of the 1980s to try to improve efficiency.

Some of the jobs are likely to be lost through compulsory redundancies - a possibility that British Gas admitted yesterday. It had succeeded in having deleted from a recent independent report on the industry's efficiency by Deloitte, Haskins and Sell, the accountants.

The 250-page report, jointly commissioned by the corporation and the Department of Energy, was published last week. It hit the headlines with its apparently startling conclusion that the corporation was still undercharging its customers despite record profits of more than £1,000m a year.

Both the department and the corporation last night confirmed reports in the specialist magazine, *Accountancy*, that a number of paragraphs had been left out of the published version on the grounds that they were considered matters of commercial confidence.

Among them was a paragraph which said that British Gas was considering whether a number of its 12 regions would have to announce compulsory redundancies this year. "It is important that such redundancies are

Continued on back page, col 7

FT chief decides to step down

By Derek Pain

The chief executive of the *Financial Times*, Mr Alan Hare, is to step down on October 1. But he will remain chairman of the newspaper until next spring, when he will reach retirement age of 65.

Taking over as chief executive will be Mr Frank Barlow, aged 53. He is general manager of Westminster Press which, like the *Financial Times*, is controlled by the S. Pearson and Son conglomerate, which has diverse interests including merchant banking and engineering.

Mr Hare's decision to step down comes less than a month after the ending of a damaging ten-week stoppage at the *Financial Times*. It cost the newspaper more than £1m in lost revenue after taking into account costs saved, such as unpaid wages.

Mr Hare said he had decided to end his commitment in two stages to make the change over as smooth as possible. Last night's announcement, he said, would have been made a month earlier had the strike not taken place.

Mr Hare will not be severing completely his connections with the Pearson group. He was appointed president of Chateau Latour, the French vineyard controlled by the group, in June. His other appointments include directorships of the Reuters newsmagazine and of the *Economist*.

Other *Financial Times* appointments from October 1 are: Mr Richard McClean, managing director (marketing), to be deputy chief executive, and Mr David Palmer, deputy editor, to be general manager. Mr Richard Lambert, the newspaper's chief subeditor, will become deputy editor.



Mr Hare: planned earlier announcement

Israel in chaos over Begin succession

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel was plunged into political chaos yesterday as initial attempts to find an agreed successor to Mr Menachem Begin, the retiring Likud Prime Minister, failed and the Labour opposition launched a series of unofficial contacts in the hope of being asked to form the next government.

Managers of the Likud coalition parties acknowledged that they were involved in a race against time to find a new leader before Mr Begin submits his letter of resignation (which is already written) to President Herzog, who then has to call on one Knesset member to try to form a new administration.

Only if the Likud has a new leader supported by a viable majority can Labour, the largest single party in the 120-seat Parliament, be prevented from trying to form its own left-wing coalition.

It is believed that Mr Begin will resign formally by the Jewish New Year next Wednesday at the latest.

Within a few hours of Mr Begin making his decision to step down irreversible, a fierce political struggle erupted between the two main contestants for his job as leader of the Herut Party, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister who started favourite, and Mr David Levy, the Sephardic Deputy Prime Minister. The leader of Herut automatically heads the Likud.

Yesterday afternoon, it was announced that at a private meeting whose chairman was Yacov Meridor, Mr Begin's closest confidant and his predecessor as commander of the Irgun Jewish terror group, that the two contestants were both insistent on submitting their candidacies to a meeting tonight of the 900-strong central committee of the party. Its decision is expected to be final.

Although Mr Shamir, aged 67, a former Knesset Speaker and one of the Cabinet's leading hawks who opposed the Camp David treaty has emerged as the clear favourite among seven of the eight Herut ministers in the present government, this does not ensure his success. Mr Levy had all along been pressing for a showdown in the central committee where he is said to have greater grassroots support.

The fact that the two contenders were unable to reach a private deal before the crucial meeting has encouraged those in the Labour Party who believe they may have an outside chance of tempting away sufficient coalition deputies to be able to command the necessary 61 seats in the Knesset.

At present they have 50 and yesterday began putting feelers to the small parties.

As expected Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister and the chief architect of the Lebanon war has quickly emerged as an influential power behind the scenes.

Gunmen hijack Romanian cargo ship

Nicosia (AP) - Unknown gunmen commandeered a Romanian cargo ship in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli.

Port authorities in Cyprus said they did not have the name of the ship, and that there was no information as to where it was heading.

Tripoli is only about 100 miles south-east of the southern Cyprus port of Larnaca, and has been the scene of frequent fighting in recent weeks between pro and anti-Syrian Lebanese Muslim groups.

Bravery award for Navy diver

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A Royal Navy deep-sea diver has been awarded the Queen's gallantry medal for his part in "possibly the most dangerous task ever undertaken by a Royal Navy diver team".

He is Petty Officer Michael Harrison, aged 33, who has been in the Navy for 18 years.

The medal was won while divers were recovering classified documents and equipment from ships sunk during the Falklands campaign last year. The nature of the material recovered has not been specified but it is thought to have included top secret code

books and cryptographic equipment.

The citation says that "though working in extremely unpleasant, hazardous and dark conditions, and despite becoming entangled in two separate occasions with hanging debris, Harrison persevered with the task, putting himself at grave personal risk."

The action was in depths of more than 300 feet, and was carried out by a team of 27 naval divers.

The operation was conducted from a chartered vessel, the 7,000-ton *Szasa Seaspeed*. It involved

using a diving bell to carry the divers down.

The divers left the diving bell, but remained connected to it, while searching for the documents and equipment in the sunken ships.

It is believed that much of the activity centred on Coventry which sank north of the Falklands.

The recovery of the material has been regarded as a sensitive matter by the Royal Navy not only because it was highly classified, but also because ships lost off the Falklands have been designated as war graves.

THE TIMES
TODAY

Peaks and valleys in the membership of the union sharply, is beginning organized and for Across the Only three sport really the microlights from London

Into the red Business News the Government "Pink Book" deterioration trading position's past 11 years Up and away Airlines are with Special Reports how operators double their base On the green The continuing Sunningdale Europe's top two Faldo and Balles to be number one

A million mourn for Aquino

More than a million Filipinos turned out yesterday to mourn the assassinated opposition leader. Crowds surged for about an hour along a 15-mile route in the garlanded coffin

Cut-throat cover

Britain's big insurance companies are "cut-throat" in the business to fringe funds which, according to one hit company, are charging rates

Male midwives

The last legal barriers to men training as midwives were lifted today with the repeal of the relevant section of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Overt fails

Steve Overt failed last night to break the three-day world record of Sydney, March 1970, when he won the 1,500 metres in Cologne, Germany, when he won the race in 3 min 32.93 sec.

Bomb theories

South African politics, on which hold against Sir Philip Hain, may be behind two bomb attacks in London

Hijack ends

Five hijackers holding an Air France jetliner since Sunday have surrendered at Tehran, with a promise of asylum

Essex joy

Essex, the county cricket championship leaders, took five wickets on the first day at Lancashire

Leader page 11

Letters on Fleet Street extend from Mr L. Cummins, and L. Briginshaw; exports, from Mr Dembo; privatization, from Mr David Howell, MP. Leading articles: Jesuits; Trade Union Congress. Features, pages 8, 10. Washington's duty to back Salvador; post-Solidarity Poland; subsidizing rural blight; a profile of John Updike. Books, page 9. Fiona MacCarthy reviews the new biography of Vanessa Bell. A. N. Wilson on the seventieth birthday of Angus Wilson. Obituaries, page 12. Captain E. H. B. Baker, Mr Hubert Blake.

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Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

The beginning of September customarily marks the resumption of active politics after the summer break. Soon we shall be in the thick of the party conferences and the happy, relaxed days of August become but a distant memory. But this year politics have hardly ceased to be active throughout the holiday season. This is partly because of the Labour leadership contest. It is also because the Liberals have provided the dramatic and unexpected spectacle of a leader apparently at odds with his party.

Mr David Steel's leadership of the Liberal Party during the past seven years has been characterized both by his remarkable success in guiding the party in the direction he has always intended and by his autocratic methods. His autocracy has, to my mind, had much to do with his success. From the moment he became leader he has been determined to take the party back into office, and he has been convinced that the Liberals could not get there by themselves. So he has always been willing to cooperate with another party, whether in a parliamentary pact, an alliance or even something closer.

Playing for the split to come

Each move has been a calculated step towards a place in the political sun. His principal purpose in the Lib-Lab Pact, for example, was not so much to influence the policies of Mr Callaghan's Government as to persuade the Labour right that it was easier for them to work with Liberals than with their own left-wing, he was playing for the split that was to come.

The Liberals would not have pursued Mr Steel's strategy as consistently as they have, and they could not have the possibilities which they now see in front of them if he had not imposed his will upon them at critical moments. An initially doubtful party, lacking an instinct for power, would almost certainly not have responded to less autocratic methods.

But it is one thing for a leader to be autocratic: it is quite another for him to give the impression of flaunting his autocracy. To do so is liable to humiliate his followers, and people will not march indefinitely behind a leader who does not seem to respect them.

Mr Steel must keep reasonable image

Mr Steel has not, in my judgment, exercised too much power. The Alliance would have been damaged electorally if the joint programme had included some of the items whose omission is now criticised. But in exercising his power he has not always paid sufficient regard to the sensitivities of his party. It is essentially a matter of style.

So beneath all the flurry over reports of resignation threats and constitutional changes, the test for the Liberals this autumn is clear: can harmony be restored without diminishing the substance of Mr Steel's authority?

A group of senior Liberals in and out of Parliament—including Mr Alan Bell, Lord Ewens of Cloughton, Lord Tordoff, Mr Richard Holmes, Dr William Wallace, Mr Stuart Mole and Mr John Roberts—are coming together to try to smooth feelings within the party and to strengthen the partnership with the SDP. The two purposes go hand in hand. Neither the Liberals nor the Alliance can afford to weaken Mr Steel's position, and he cannot afford to lose the reputation for calm reasonableness which accounts for so much of the respect he has acquired over the years.

Separate blast linked to Middle East conflict

Police theory of grudge bombings at Oppenheimer properties

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard anti-terrorist experts suspect that South African politics or a grudge are the motives behind bombings in London. The explosions were aimed at the London offices and home of Sir Philip Oppenheimer, the South African millionaire, late on Tuesday and early yesterday.

No one was injured by the two devices or by a third bomb which exploded outside the offices of the Bank Leumi, an Israeli financial house, in Woodstock Street, off Oxford Street, severely damaging the exterior. Detectives consider that blast to be unconnected with Sir Philip, who is a director of De Beers and chairman of the Diamond Trading Company. The first bomb was left outside the London offices of a number of his companies in Holborn Viaduct. The bomb which was of seven gas cylinders, a timing device and detonators, failed to explode properly.

The other, similar device, was close to Sir Philip's home in Egerton Terrace, Knightsbridge. Sir Philip lives at number 39 but the bomber left it on the first floor balcony of number 37.

American businessman and his family were in the house at the time of the explosion, early yesterday, but were unharmed by a small explosion in which only one of the gas cylinders exploded.

Sir Philip, aged 71, is in Spain on holiday, and is not expected back in Britain until next weekend. His housekeeper was awakened by the explosion but thought it was a thunder. The American businessman, who had only recently moved in, would not comment yesterday.

As police explosives experts and forensic scientists began examining the two scenes and parts of the devices, they discovered that both were similar to one found in a bag in Holborn in July. At the time the device was attributed to Armenian terrorists, but now Scotland Yard believes it was an earlier attack on Sir Philip's offices.

Yesterday there was speculation that the bombs may have been a part of a campaign by a new version of the anarchist group, the Angry Brigade, but this was dismissed by detectives who believe that Sir Philip or the giant mining concerns which he and his family control may be the target for a bomber with a grudge.

Detectives believe Sir Peter may have been sent a letter bomb in South Africa some time ago and that there may be a pattern to the attacks. It is also possible that the bombs were linked to South African politics, although emigre black nationalists in Britain have usually been the subject of attack themselves rather than the aggressors.

A spokesman for De Beers said yesterday that he was not aware of any attacks aimed at Sir Philip in the past.

In 1977 four people were jailed at the Central Criminal Court in London for taking part in an attempt to extract money from the Oppenheimer family and its companies under the leadership of a former hijacker who claimed he was owed £1m. The former hijacker was not arrested or tried.

The attack on the Israeli bank, which happened at midnight, in between the other two bombings, is thought to be the work of a group from the Middle East. The device involved one pound of commercial high explosives and detectives were in no doubt yesterday that it was the work of an experienced terrorist.

No one was near the bank when the device exploded but if there has been, the police believe they might well have died.

By last night no claims of responsibility had been received for any of the devices.

Sir Philip is a cousin of Mr Harry Oppenheimer, who retired recently as head of Anglo American Ltd, the South African-based mining and industrial conglomerate.

Empty wards fear over job targets

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

New hospitals and redevelopment of existing ones may have to remain empty unless health ministers agree to revise their manpower targets, regional health authorities have told the Department of Health and Social Services.

Special services, including the London Ambulance Service, may also be threatened because ambulance crews are not regarded by ministers as "front line" caring staff.

Those are the main objections made by the 14 English regions to the department's demand for more than 8,000 job cuts by next March. The regions were given until last night to present "reasoned cases" for a variation in the new targets, which represented cuts of 0.75 or 1 per cent on the staff in post on March 31, 1983.

Within those overall targets, the regions were expected to make greater cuts among administrative and ancillary staff, including ambulance crews, than among doctors and nurses.

Most regions have submitted cases for an upward revision of the manpower targets, despite the clear emphasis in departmental circulars that ministers would welcome more job cuts.

Most have pointed out that the base-line date of March 31, 1983 is arbitrary, both because the National Health Service reorganisation last year meant that many agreed posts had not been filled

on that date, and because more staff had been taken on since because new hospitals and other developments opened.

The North West Thames region, which is being asked to cut between 996 and 1,145 jobs, has told the department that it needs 392 extra staff for new ward blocks at Bedford General Hospital, for two city hospitals serving Luton, Dunstable and St Albans, and for an interim secure psychiatric unit at St Bernard's Hospital, Ealing, west London.

The Wessex region is asking for their manpower cuts to be limited to the 0.75 figure, or less, which would enable it to employ at least 50 more staff.

More staff are needed for the new district general hospital at Grimsby, a redevelopment of the Clarendon wing of Leeds Infirmary, and the opening of the regional secure unit for psychiatric patients, the Yorkshire region has told the department.

The North Western region is also asking for the lower of the two target figures to apply, which would mean a loss of 572 jobs instead of 762.

Both Trent and East Anglia, which on paper are being allowed more staff next March, have argued that they should be allowed more for developments already approved.

Discussions between the authorities and the department will continue over the next fortnight.

Blacking threat to Vauxhall

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Vauxhall car workers yesterday stepped up their threat to "black" the company's car imports in a bid to win an improvement on a 5 per cent pay offer.

About half the cars sold in Britain by Vauxhall and its General Motors partner, Opel are imported, but last night the company played down the effect an import ban would have on its operations.

Union opposition came at Vauxhall's Luton plant where 6,000 workers voted to impose the ban and reject the 5 per cent offer which the company has said is all that is available.

Leaders of the Transport and General Workers Union will meet in the next few days to discuss how to impose the import blockade. The action would have to involve dockers and lorry drivers.

Mr Tom Conway, senior TGWU convenor at Luton, said: "If we are going to get into a dispute with the company we have to stop those imports first, otherwise we will be wasting our time."

The unions have submitted a 20 per cent claim, including a £25 a week pay increase, shorter working week and extra holidays. The company has said it will not concede shorter working time but there may be scope for further negotiations on other fringe areas.

Mr Thatcher said Sir Winston Churchill and she hoped one day that she would be compared with him.

The Prime Minister was opening the new Churchill Conservative Party headquarters in Dumfries.

There was no sign of the glasses she wore after the operation, but her right eye appeared bloodshot and at times the lid was dropping noticeably.

Mrs Thatcher said Sir Winston had believed in patriotism, peace with freedom and justice, a system of private enterprise, tax incentives and expenditure kept within bounds. She believed in providing a "ladder" of incentive as well as a "safety net" of social provision.

"In this we are following in the very good footsteps of Churchill, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, and Mr Macmillan."

The Caterpillar Tractor Company at Birtley, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is to close next year with the loss of 960 jobs, it was announced yesterday.

Some of the Newcastle production is to be transferred to the company's plant in Glasgow

Warning message: Two frames from "Say No to Strangers," a 20-second TV film shown on BBC and ITV last night which will be repeated this evening. It is designed to warn

children that they should not accept sweets or lifts from strangers. In the frame on the left a driver smiles and makes an offer but Theresa, waiting

outside school for her mother, speaks to the driver but refuses to get into the car. The production filmed near Watford, was made with the cooperation of Hertfordshire police.

Grandmaster trio in chess lead

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

A spate of early draws in round eight of the Lloyds Bank masters tournament in London yesterday meant that players were feeling the strain of playing continuously without a rest day. In consequence the leading positions were hardly changed.

At the end of the round three grandmasters, Matanovic (Yugoslavia), Nunn (England) and Razuvayev (Soviet Union), were sharing the lead with 6½ points ahead of Cummings, King and Watson, 6, followed by Black, Britton, Hartston, Hawksworth, Johansen, Kopeck, Kosten, Levin, Martin, Murey, Targan, Thipsay and Whicker 5½.

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Aftermath: Woodstock Street in central London yesterday as police investigated the explosion outside an Israeli bank. (Photograph: John Voos)

Churchill role for Thatcher

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, looking fit after her holiday but still showing signs of her eye operation earlier this month, claimed in Scotland yesterday that her government was following the policies of Sir Winston Churchill and she hoped one day that she would be compared with him.

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Plutonium dumping plans 'leaked'

By David Nicholson-Lord

Government departments have disclosed plans to dump highly radioactive plutonium waste from the nuclear weapons research centre at Aldermaston, Berkshire, into the sea, it was claimed yesterday.

Minutes of a meeting between the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Department of the Environment at which the plans were discussed have come into the hands of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. The documents will be released at a press conference today.

The environmental groups said the proposals, which came from the Ministry of Defence, were in defiance of all international regulations. The material, contaminated clothing and equipment, would have contained 500 grams of plutonium which Greenpeace described as lethal and cancer-inducing.

The meeting was said to have taken place in January, before British plans to dump low-level nuclear waste were rejected at a meeting of the London Dumping Convention. Efforts by the

Government since then to ensure that the dumping went ahead have floundered as a result of the resistance by the National Union of Seamen and other unions involved.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday it was unable to comment on the disclosures but sources indicated that the meeting took place.

According to Greenpeace, the minutes reveal that the Ministry of Agriculture representative was unhappy about the proposals because of the larger dumping containers that would have to be used. A ministry representative had objected that the containers might attract attention and lead to "awkward questions".

£100,000 campaign

The Greater London Council is spending £100,000 to distribute 2.8 million copies of a summary of the British Medical Association's report on the medical effects of nuclear war to every home in London. The BMA's report concluded that existing civil defence plans would be ineffective in a nuclear war.

Overseas selling prices

Aluminium 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000, 1005, 1010, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1030, 1035, 1040, 1045, 1050, 1055, 1060, 1065, 1070, 1075, 1080, 1085, 1090, 1095, 1100, 1105, 1110, 1115, 1120, 1125, 1130, 1135, 1140, 1145, 1150, 1155, 1160, 1165, 1170, 1175, 1180, 1185, 1190, 1195, 1200, 1205, 1210, 1215, 1220, 1225, 1230, 1235, 1240, 1245, 1250, 1255, 1260, 1265, 1270, 1275, 1280, 1285, 1290, 1295, 1300, 1305, 1310, 1315, 1320, 1325, 1330, 1335, 1340, 1345, 1350, 1355, 1360, 1365, 1370, 1375, 1380, 1385, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1405, 1410, 1415, 1420, 1425, 1430, 1435, 1440, 1445, 1450, 1455, 1460, 1465, 1470, 1475, 1480, 1485, 1490, 1495, 1500, 1505, 1510, 1515, 1520, 1525, 1530, 1535, 1540, 1545, 1550, 1555, 1560, 1565, 1570, 1575, 1580, 1585, 1590, 1595, 1600, 1605, 1610, 1615, 1620, 1625, 1630, 1635, 1640, 1645, 1650, 1655, 1660, 1665, 1670, 1675, 1680, 1685, 1690, 1695, 1700, 1705, 1710, 1715, 1720, 1725, 1730, 1735, 1740, 1745, 1750, 1755, 1760, 1765, 1770, 1775, 1780, 1785, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2055, 2060, 2065, 2070, 2075, 2080, 2085, 2090, 2095, 2100, 2105, 2110, 2115, 2120, 2125, 2130, 2135, 2140, 2145, 2150, 2155, 2160, 2165, 2170, 2175, 2180, 2185, 2190, 2195, 2200, 2205, 2210, 2215, 2220, 2225, 2230, 2235, 2240, 2245, 2250, 2255, 2260, 2265, 2270, 2275, 2280, 2285, 2290, 2295, 2300, 2305, 2310, 2315, 2320, 2325, 2330, 2335, 2340, 2345, 2350, 2355, 2360, 2365, 2370, 2375, 2380, 2385, 2390, 2395, 2400, 2405, 2410, 2415, 2420, 2425, 2430, 2435, 2440, 2445, 2450, 2455, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2475, 2480, 2485, 2490, 2495, 2500, 2505, 2510, 2515, 2520, 2525, 2530, 2535, 2540, 2545, 2550, 2555, 2560, 2565, 2570, 2575, 2580, 2585, 2590, 2595, 2600, 2605, 2610, 2615, 2620, 2625, 2630, 2635, 2640, 2645, 2650, 2655, 2660, 2665, 2670, 2675, 2680, 2685, 2690, 2695, 2700, 2705, 2710, 2715, 2720, 2725, 2730, 2735, 2740, 2745, 2750, 2755, 2760, 2765, 2770, 2775, 2780, 2785, 2790, 2795, 2800, 2805, 2810, 2815, 2820, 2825, 2830, 2835, 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4500, 4505, 4510, 4515, 4520, 4525, 4530, 4535, 4540, 4545, 4550, 4555, 4560, 4565, 4570, 4575, 4580, 4585

Cost-cutting by Thomson signals price war with package holiday operators

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sharpening next summer of the package holiday price war signalled yesterday by Thomson Holidays, Britain's biggest foreign tour operator, Thomson is only increasing the number of holidays on offer by a quarter but clipping many prices below this summer's levels.

"Summer sun" holidays, the biggest part of its programme, will be on in price by an average of 2 per cent while the growing sector of self-catering holidays will have prices down by an average of 6 per cent.

On top of the other incentives now common in the travel trade, such as no-surcharge guarantees, Thomson will also absorb airport taxes, usually £10 a holiday. Other tour operators are expected to follow suit.

The result for holidaymakers is that on a £250 holiday savings will range between £5 and £15, although some savings will be greater.

But the increasing price competition could result in some tour operators losing out of business. Mr John MacNeill, managing director of Thomson Holidays, agreed with other forecasters who have suggested that smaller tour operators will come under increasing pressure. But highly specialized operators should be at much less risk, he added.

The Thomson price will be a special challenge to the Birmingham-based Horizon Travel, the third largest tour operator. Horizon, which like Thomson has aimed more for the quality market, has been losing market share this summer because it did not follow Thomson in launching a lower-priced, mid-season brochure, although it did so for this winter and now looks likely to produce a lower-priced brochure for next summer.

By staggering the printing of its holiday brochures through the winter Thomson is retaining the option to bring in new brochures half way through the booking season with even lower prices.

"We are committed to the best possible holidays at the keenest prices. If we have to react to the competition then we have the facility to do this," Mr MacNeill said.

Thomson traditionally is first with the next season's brochures and its nearest rival, Intasun Leisure, together with operators like Cosmos, have in later weeks with lower prices. For this past summer Thomson repriced its brochures, largely matching opposition prices, and as a result swelled its market share from 18 per cent in 1982 to 21 per cent this year. It has done the same with this winter's main holiday programme.

By the end of the summer

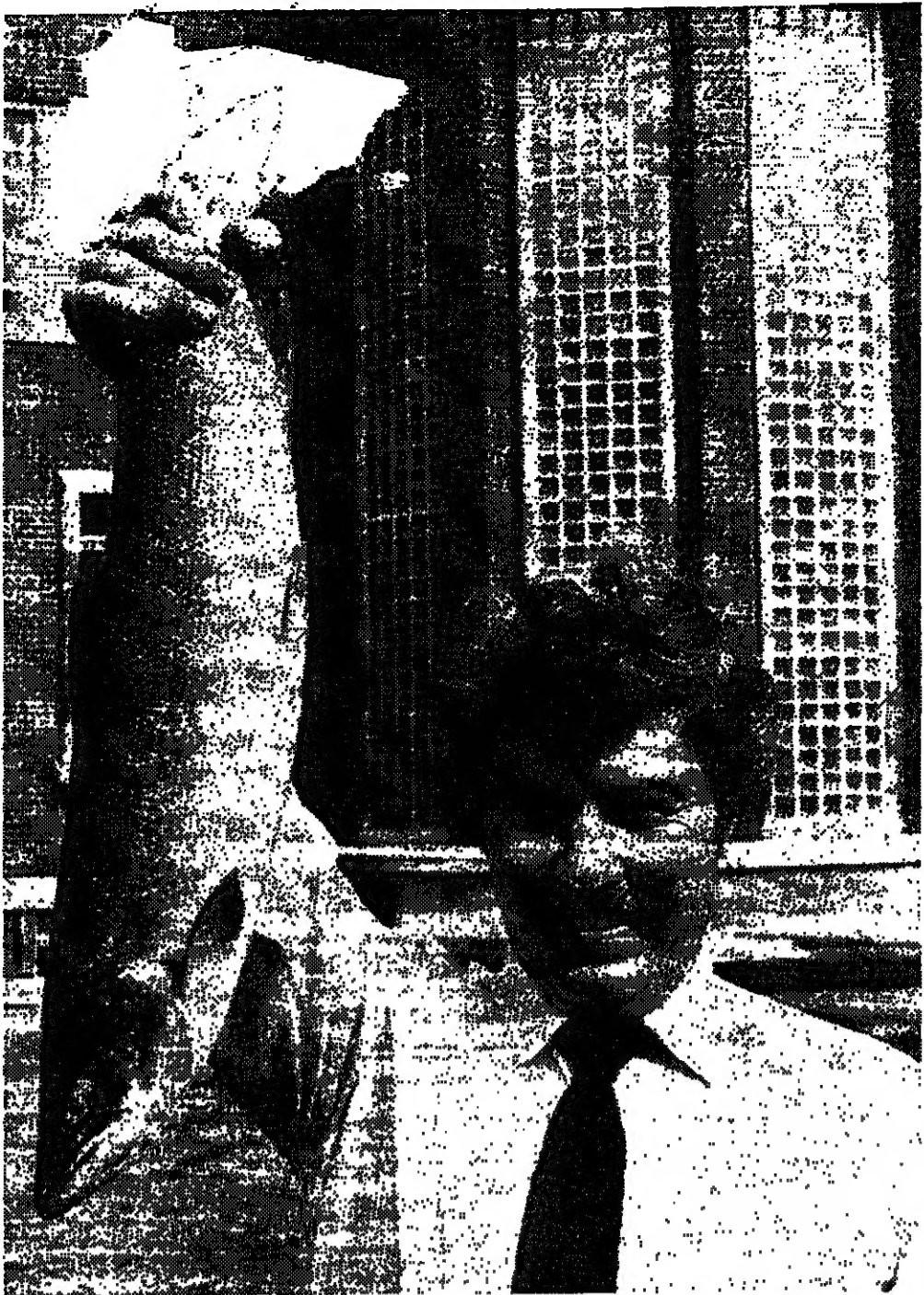
Thomson expected to have carried 790,000 holidaymakers, a 12 per cent increase on last year. Despite the poor start to this summer's booking season, the 1983 market is expected to finish as much as 5 per cent up. Mr Roger Heape, Thomson's marketing director, said:

"But the company is aiming to carry more than one million passengers next summer because it expects between 15 and 20 per cent more holidaymakers to take a foreign holiday."

This growth is expected partly to arise from consumers having more money to spend as pay runs ahead of inflation but also because of an expected continuance of the trend against taking holidays in Britain.

Last year 21 million holidaymakers took breaks of four nights or more in Britain and 11.75 million went abroad. But with holidays in Britain showing an 18 per cent decline and overseas holidays an 80 per cent rise, by 1987, as many Britons could be holidaying abroad as taking a break in Britain, Mr Heape said.

Thomson claims that typical foreign holidays are now undercutting United Kingdom packages, including rail travel. A Costa Brava 14-day holiday would be £176 against £180 in Blackpool, and a £206 Majorca fortnight compared with £212 in Torquay, Thomson claimed.



Fin de siècle: Mr Russell Doig displaying his historic catch. Photograph: Bill Warhurst.

Thames salmon catch of the century

Mr Russell Doig, an angler who hooked the first authenticated salmon taken from the Thames for 150 years, was yesterday presented with a trophy and a cheque for £250 for his achievement.

The last salmon caught by rod and line upstream of London was in 1833, but the river became so polluted that little survived in it.

During the past 20 years, a series of anti-pollution measures has led to 104 species of fish being identified in the river and in 1979

the Thames Water Authority began re-introducing salmon.

The chief executive of the authority, Mr Hugh Fish said yesterday: "The catching of a salmon by rod and line proves beyond all doubt that the Thames is now clean."

Mr Doig, aged 46, a motor mechanic of Stanwell, Middlesex caught the 6lb 12oz salmon at Chertsey weir pool on August 23 using a Mepps Number One spinner.

His catch is to be mounted and will be put on display by the authority.

Goldcrest aims to raise £20m

By David Hewson

Goldcrest, the film and television company that made the Oscar-winning *Gandhi*, is planning to raise £20m from institutional investors later this year. The money will be used to finance further expansion in production, distribution and pay television. One future option being considered by the company is that of going public.

Mr James Lee, Goldcrest's chairman, said yesterday that he thought it would be attractive to have a publicly quoted company in Britain which was solely involved in film and television production.

Mr Lee, who is also deputy chairman and chief executive of Goldcrest's parent company, Pearson Longman, has persuaded a number of institutional investors to chance their funds on the normally risky area of film production by offering pre-sold production packages backed by an impressive array of cinema and television talent who are on his board.

Cult defended by 'rebel' teacher

From Ronald Faux, Liverpool

The newly appointed mathematics master at Croxteth School, the former comprehensive and now rebel independent school in Liverpool, yesterday defended his membership of Ananda Marga, the Indian cult which he has been accused of performing ritual murders.

Mr Phil Carspecken, aged 31, a United States social science graduate, admitted his membership but said: "We do not practice ritual murder, neither are there homosexuals at all. We are primarily a social service organization that practices yoga."

He said he had been a member of the movement in the US for 10 years and in Britain for two years. They believed in implementing socialist policies in a peaceful way and the allegations that had been made in India were "very distorted".

The school management was aware that he was a member of the cult, he said, and that he had been found guilty of using insulting behaviour during a visit to Liverpool by the Queen 18 months ago.

Bath dome project changed

By Craig Seton

A public inquiry over part of the plan to restore Bath as a spa has been averted after a decision by architects to how to preserve the city's architectural heritage.

A number of organizations, including the Georgian Group and the Bath Preservation Trust, took exception to part of the scheme to refurbish the Old Royal Bath, the open-air Cross Bath and the Beau Street Bath. City councillors were also divided.

The outcry was over a proposal to roof over the Cross Bath with a dome, rising six feet above the parapet.

The Georgian Group described the scheme as "pervasive and eccentric" and accused Mr William Berryman, and the Royal Fine Arts Commission, which supported the scheme, of "conspiring at the disruption of an important and delightful piece of Georgian landscape". It called for a public inquiry.

Mr Berryman said yesterday that he had submitted a new plan. The dome would remain over the pool, but its height had been reduced and it would no longer rise above the parapet.

The new plan will go before the council's planning committee later this month and the Georgian Group has indicated that it will withdraw its objection.

The multi-million pound project will be carried out by Mowlem Property Developments, Blakeney Hotels and Ernest Ireland Construction.

High savings bring hope of shorter home loan queues

By Lena Bourke

Queues for home loans are likely to shorten as building societies continue to take in more money.

Receipts for August are likely to be nearly £500m — a drop of more than £200m on the previous month, but still significantly higher than August 1982, when net receipts reached only £437m. August is traditionally not a good month to pull in savings, as families are away on holiday, and the societies are pleased to have beaten their 1982 August figure.

Today sees the launch of the big five societies' new term share offer paying 9 per cent net of basic rate tax. The societies expect this new issue to attract an extra £1,000m, which should go a long way towards reducing mortgage queues.

Smaller societies are offering even better terms, with the Hemel Hempstead and Greenwich societies paying 9.25 per cent net of basic rate tax. Several societies are compounding interest half-yearly instead of annually, giving a higher return.

Societies need to raise at least £700m a month to meet existing mortgage demand and a short-fall in August will probably be met by borrowing on the money markets. In July the societies raised £200m from non-traditional sources.

"This source is likely to continue to make a significant contribution to the funds available for mortgage lending, and may become more important in October when societies are able to pay interest without deduction of tax on time deposits," Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association, commented.

The launch of term shares by the societies is good news for investors, but bad news for borrowers. To finance the higher return on shares, both the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies are reintroducing differential mortgages, the system of charging more for larger than average loans.

Nationwide is considering the situation and only Woolwich remains firm that it will not bring back home loan differentials.

Police were still trying yesterday to find a woman who telephoned on Tuesday to say she had seen Mrs Jones, aged 35, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

The operation, due to begin today with a search of a small wood, is expected to last up to three days. Dr Robert Jones's farmhouse home, which is up for sale, will also be searched again for clues. Senior Essex police officers gave consent yesterday for the new search, which will push the cost of the hunt so far to more than £500,000.

Police were still trying yesterday to find a woman who telephoned on Tuesday to say she had seen Mrs Jones, aged 35, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Two United States micro computer manufacturers have announced big reductions for the British market. Texas Instruments, whose home computer business is running into deficit, is cutting the retail price of its TI99-4A micro from £150 to £100; it was introduced two years ago at £300. Software prices are also being cut.

Commodore, which is still very profitable, is cutting the price of most of its business computers. A typical system will cost £1,985 rather than £2,750.

Mr Len Downton, who operated donkey rides on the beach at Weymouth, Dorset, left £163,000 in his will, published yesterday. He died last April, aged 72, still running the donkey pitch started by his grandfather in 1888. His son John now runs the business.

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Pontin plans comeback at 77

By Derek Paine

At an age when most people settle for comfortable retirement, Sir Fred Pontin, the former holiday camp tycoon, is preparing for a stock market comeback and, as a sideline, developing a West Country hotel chain.

At the Grosvenor Hotel in London yesterday, he presided at a shareholders meeting of Knick Holdings, a fashion group that fell on hard times and now, as a leisure business, is the vehicle for Sir Fred's stock market return. After the meeting he travelled to Brixham, Devon, to complete his latest hotel purchase.

Sir Fred, who will be 77 next month, is at least for the time being, keeping his two business careers apart.

Knick Holdings, which is to be renamed the National Leisure Group, has more than 600 shareholders. Just six of them turned up yesterday to vote through the latest acquisition, the takeover of Scarborough Zoo and Marine Park, an amusement centre at the Yorkshire resort.

Since Sir Fred joined forces earlier this year with Mr Donald Robinson, aged 46, Knick has made a series of acquisitions.



Sir Fred: Concentrating on upmarket leisure

These include an Isle of Wight hotel, sold by Sir Fred, and various leisure interests in Scarborough, acquired largely from Mr Robinson.

Sir Fred told the six shareholders that more takeovers were underway and two near completion.

He hoped the company would obtain a full stock market share quote before the end of the year.

Sir Fred created the Pontin's holiday camp group which is now owned by the Bass brewing company. He left the company shortly after he sold out in 1978.

However, Sir Fred, an ebullient character retaining much of his holiday camp image, has no intention of getting involved in his old business in his career comeback.

"They are too down-market these days."

Knick will concentrate on other leisure areas. Its present activities include discotheques, public houses and a theatre.

Mr Robinson, who rescued Hull City football club from bankruptcy, is impressed by the potential of theme parks. Knick is at present negotiating for a site to build a compact, undercover park in central London.

The Robinson family, Sir Fred, and Trident TV are the main Knick shareholders. Sir Fred's share stake, based on the 20p price the shares have commanded in unofficial dealings, is valued at about £600,000.

Wandering trolleys impounded

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is writing to its 76 members in England today for their views on the growing urban problem of abandoned supermarket trolleys (Arthur Osman writes).

The London Borough of Sutton had sought the association's advice. An association official said: "After we receive our members' views we shall decide what to do."

About ten authorities have already decided on punitive measures. Solihull in the West Midlands became the latest yesterday by deciding to make stores pay a £4 fee to recover trolleys from a special pound.

Stores and supermarkets in the town will have one month to reclaim trolleys worth between £30 and £40 each cleared from streets, car parks and other sites. If they are not reclaimed the council will dispose of them.

Mr Keith Samuels, chairman of the town's public works committee, said: "We hoped this will clear up the problem, which has been with us for some time."

Supermarkets may start charging a deposit to make sure they are brought back.

Mr Richard Taylor, consumer affairs director for Tesco, said about ten councils were now operating the same sort of scheme involving what he called "a ransom" for the return of trolleys.

He continued: "It is something to which we object, as a trade. There have been discussions between Solihull and the British Retailers' Association in an attempt to come to an amicable agreement. We actively challenge a local authority's right to do this, although we appreciate they have powers under the Highway Act to remove anything which constitutes a public danger."

"Our point is that these trolleys are not abandoned, and that they are going to be recovered." Some supermarkets had up to six people permanently employed collecting trolleys abandoned by customers and in Tesco's larger stores there were specially designed low-loader collection vehicles.

Mr Taylor said: "We spend a lot of time, effort and money recovering trolleys and we get more than a little upset when a local authority reacts in this fashion."

He said the retailers association has contemplated challenging an authority in the London area, but the matter was dropped when the authority returned the trolleys it was holding. He said: "It would be a last resort to take a local authority to court."

Retailers were now experimenting with a number of deposit schemes.

Move to British cars seen in rising sales

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Record sales of new cars in August showed a significant swing away from imports and in favour of British-based manufacturers. The Japanese fared particularly badly in a month in which they normally do well.

August is the best month of the year for the importers, with private buyers dominating the market in their rush to obtain the new registration letter. Fleet and company buyers, who tend to favour BL, Ford and Vauxhall, usually stay away.

This August, however, tempted by the incentive and discount campaigns waged by those three companies, private buyers have been tempted away from imported cars.

With four days' registrations

still to be processed, last August's record of 302,000 cars sold has already been exceeded by 35,000. Last night, dealers reported that demand had remained surprisingly high and the final sales figure for the month could reach 360,000.

Japanese companies' share of the market has fallen from 12.5 per cent last August to 10.4 per cent, the first time in many years they have not exceeded their "voluntary annual ceiling" of 11 per cent in their favourite month. Sales by European manufacturers such as Renault and Fiat have also decreased. The only importing company which appears to have held its own is Volkswagen/Audi, which took 5 per cent of the market.



Believers in the influence of the planets buying six-month horoscope charts at the computerized astrology shop in Selfridges. The computer can produce a chart in five minutes. Photograph: Suresh Karadia.

Planetary influences at Selfridges

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

What is claimed to be the first computerized astrology shop in Britain has opened at Selfridges in London where believers are buying six-month prediction charts for less than £10.

The charts are based on the contents of five United States publications, *Planets in Composite*, *Planets in Transit*, *Planets in Youth*, *Planets in Aspect* and *Planets in Love*, written by three astrologers in the United States.

The subject's name, birthplace, date and time is fed into the computer and in five minutes a chart is produced.

The venture is the idea of Mr Douglas Villiers who has

ambitions to open similar shops in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, City and also in other locations in Britain.

He has based the venture on one shop he had seen in Paris which uses programs written by the American company, Para Research on an IBM computer.

The chart or report provided by the shop in Selfridges, known as Future Forecasts provides 15 pages of detail outlining the position of the planets at the time and place of the subject's birth. This is followed by another 15 pages giving a six-month prediction chart on a month by month basis.

Mr Villiers said that programs

were originally written for professional astrologers but have been adapted. "I wanted to popularise it and make it available to the public."

A more detailed report of some 50 pages is available for about £13.

Future Forecasts claims that no two charts are the same and that each requires about six billion computations.

Future Forecasts expects to attract a lot of tourist trade and intends to try and establish itself at Heathrow airport, London. Mr Villiers said: "We are looking for pleasure-seekers. People going on a day out or waiting at an airport in the right relaxed 'mood'."

سكرا من الاجل

Postal delays persist despite rise in complaints

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

More people complained to the Post Office Users' National Council about the service they received from the Post Office last year than in any of the two previous years and yet the corporation still has a poor record of service.

The disclosures are contained in the council's annual report, published yesterday. In the last financial year, ending in March, the council says it continued to press the Post Office about the poor quality of service, which remained disappointing despite management's attempts to get improvements.

The council handled 11,000 complaints from customers of the post and telephone services. Postal complaints totalled 3,744, an increase on 3,115 (1982) and 3,184 (1981). The bulk of the complaints to the council were about delays, which totalled 849, a rise of about 28 per cent.

The report says: "Complaints about delays recorded a particularly sharp upturn in June and September, reflecting in turn the rail strikes and the TUC Day of Action, and again in January, 1983, when the extended new year holiday caused a collection and sorting build-up which adversely affected delivery efficiency for several days after."

Reports of impending closures of post offices has led to a large

volume of complaints. The council concludes: "Such closures can bring hardship to sections of the community and the problems created continue to be a matter of serious concern to us."

The Post Office is conducting a survey on its post offices and sub-post offices.

The number of complaints about telephone service, according to the council's report, has dropped remarkably to 7,487 from 11,001 in 1982 and 13,333 in 1981. Complaints about accounts total 2,963, which is almost a third of what they were two years ago.

The council said complaints largely involved delays in getting faults repaired. But it noted that statistics from British Telecom showed that nationally the percentage of faults cleared by the end of the next working day had risen from just over 58 per cent in 1979/80 to 85 per cent in 1982/83.

However, a number of complaints were received from subscribers unable to get the new telephone handsets advertised by British Telecom.

The council said it received several complaints from customers unable to get some of those instruments either because there were delays with British Telecom's suppliers or that British Telecom's local sales staff knew nothing about them.

Man found dead after gun siege

A four-hour armed siege ended yesterday when a man was found to have killed himself after shooting and critically wounding his daughter aged 15.

The shooting came after a domestic dispute that broke out in the early hours of the morning at the family's maisonette in Priors Croft, just off the High Street in Old Woking, Surrey.

Mrs Shirley Frost, aged 48, ran for help to a neighbour with blood streaming from her head after being struck by a soda siphon. Mr Ronald Frost, then her daughter Carla, aged nine, ran out saying that her father had a gun.

Neighbours found Mrs Frost's daughter Carol lying shot on the kitchen floor. Mrs Frost and the two girls were rushed by ambulance to hospital as police cordoned off the area warning neighbours to remain indoors.

As a siege began Carol was transferred to the Atkinson Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, where she underwent an emergency operation for gunshot wounds. A hospital spokesman said her condition was critical.

At the council estate where the family lived 12 marksmen from the Surrey police firearms support unit took up strategic positions as senior officers tried to make contact with Mr Frost, using a loud hailer.

But there was no response and after a bang that could have been a shot, the police moved into the house and found Mr Frost, who held a firearms licence, lying dead in the bedroom with a gun by his side.



Mixed effects: The Burrator reservoir, serving the Plymouth area, which is down to 30 days' supply of water and (right) a dwarf rose thrown up by the "greenhouse" atmosphere being inspected by Mr Raymond Roads, a gardener from Wimborne, Dorset.

Downpour after drought meeting

By Craig Seton

Heavy rain fell over Plymouth yesterday as the Southwest Water Authority decided to seek government approval to halve the use of water in a wide range of activities in the city and across much of Devon because of the drought.

The authority is to ask Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, for permission to ban the watering of parks recreation grounds, sports and playing fields, race and golf courses, and for the replenishment of private swimming pools and ponds, if that should become necessary.

The ban would also apply to car washing equipment, the cleaning of public buildings and the use of water in ornamental fountains and cascades. If the ban is applied it would affect hundreds of thousands of people in Plymouth and north, mid and west Devon.

The Burrator reservoir on Dartmoor, which supplies Plymouth, is down to 43 per cent of capacity and has only 30 days' supply left. The level has not fallen so low since the drought of 1976 when standpipes had to be erected in parts of the West Country.

After deciding on the emergency measures, members of the authority left the meeting to be greeted by a heavy downpour. With depressions forming over the Atlantic more rain was forecast.

Forecast, Jack Page

Give cyclists better deal, engineers say

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain's highway engineers, traditionally regarded as protagonists of the motor-car and the enemies of pedal-power, yesterday called for widespread improvements in road design and traffic management to benefit cyclists.

In a 60-page report, *Providing for the Cyclist*, the Institution of Highway Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, greater mixing of cyclists and pedestrians on footpaths and crossings, and more experiments with converting disused railways lines for cyclists and allowing them to ride the "wrong way" up one-way streets.

The future of cycling, according to the institution, lies largely on the existing road network, not segregated tracks. The width, quality and maintenance of roads should be improved and better parking provided. Cyclists' safety, it adds, "should not depend of cycling in the gutter".

The institution, which represents 8,700 engineers employed by councils, central government and consultants, yesterday described its guidelines as an "important step forward" in the recognition of cyclists. It says that its recommendations can be achieved at "modest cost" and that they will reduce accidents, and encourage new cyclists on to city streets.

Mr Kenneth Huddart, the chief

traffic engineer with the Greater London Council and chairman of the group that produced the report, said the majority of local authorities had done "nothing special" for cyclists. Experience showed that the number of cyclists more than doubled when facilities were improved.

Mr Michael Hardy, the president of the institution and county surveyor for Hertfordshire, added: "We are trying to twist the arms of elected members, engineers, local authorities and central government to widen the use of facilities for cyclist."

Cost-benefit analysis by the GLC has indicated that a £12,000 investment in a mile of cycle-route would offer value for money if it was used by 100 bicycles a day.

The report says cycling saves energy, is healthy and pollution-free and is a viable alternative for trips to work. But casualty rates remain "obstinately high", with 90 per cent of accidents occurring in urban areas. Cycle traffic has doubled in recent years and further increases without better roads design could significantly increase accident rates.

The report was welcomed yesterday by cycling bodies including the Cyclists' Touring Club, the largest cycling body in the country with 35,000 members, and the London Cycling Campaign.

Getting through your first few days at college may require a little application.

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Council overspending: 3 Capital cohesion that cuts could corrode

By David Walker

Approached either from the south across the Tyne gorge or from the north by the town moor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne shows little of the decay and seediness visible in the inner areas of Manchester or Liverpool. When those two cities were convulsed in the summer of 1981, the Tyne was quiet.

The two facts are connected, city officials say. Newcastle's appearance and social cohesion are the products of a generation of relatively high municipal spending. "We have done so much over the past 20 years that our housing stock looks reasonable", Mr Jeremy Beecham, the council leader, said.

Realistically, he said, there would not be "blood on the streets" if the city council in Newcastle cut back its spending to the levels desired by the Government. But there would, over time, be profound damage to the Tyne's ability to cope, for example with their historically high levels of unemployment. There would at the least be a "tremendous upsurge in vandalism among unemployed youngsters at present provided for by various city programmes", Mr Beecham said.

Newcastle is an unabashed high spender with one of the highest rate poundages in the country. This year it is spending 30 per cent more than the Government says it needs; over 4 per cent above its control target. The northern region of the Confederation of British Industry, based in the city, raises a continuous outcry about the impact of rates on business.

The city's case, which is to be presented to the Government over coming months, that Whitehall formulae have consistently failed to take into account that Newcastle is more than just another urban district. It is a regional capital, with all the associated costs.

Officials in the palatial town hall, built in the era of Mr T. Dan Smith, a once-celebrated Newcastle councillor run through the

list. The city has the only haemophilia unit in the north of England and requires social services backup. The city houses a regional reference library, paid for out of the rates. People from Scotland and the North arrive at the central station and need housing; Newcastle spends on regional theatres and tourism. None of these costs are recognized in the Government's "grant-related expenditure assessment" and Newcastle is penalized.

Beyond that, Newcastle, Labour-held since local government reorganization, is unquestionably a generous provider. It spends more per pupil than most other metropolitan districts; similarly in social services, it is at or near the top of the leagues for employing social workers and providing home helps. Its extensive housing schemes include the famous Byker project, a huge wall of flats where there is a waiting list to get in.

Mr Beecham is a barrister, who unlike his municipal colleagues to the south, keeps up a full time job; he is a well-known moderate, outspoken within the Association of Metropolitan Authorities against more left-wing socialists.

But he is adamant that Newcastle's high level of provision is justified by the social circumstances of Tyne-side with its 18 per cent unemployment and precarious reliance on declining industries. "It is not the business of the Government to say what individual councils ought to spend", he said.

If Newcastle had to reduce its spending, and the gap between its current outlays and the Government's target is only about £6m out of a £125m budget, council house rents would have to increase and council employees would go, mainly in education. Mr Cyril Davies, the chief executive said that the fine looks of Newcastle would also suffer. "It would be a much shabbier city if we just stood back."

Concluded

More than a million Filipinos mourn at Aquino's funeral

Manila (Reuters) - More than a million Filipinos turned out yesterday for the funeral of Benigno Aquino, the assassinated opposition leader, in a display of grief which developed into a peaceful demonstration of opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos.

The garlanded coffin, borne on a 10-wheel vehicle, inched along a 15-mile route from the Aquino family parish church in north Manila to a cemetery south of the capital.

The crowds surged alongside, between, before and behind the cavalcade of mourners in a procession that stretched for about two miles and brought much of the central area to a standstill.

The journey took nearly 12 hours and a police officer said one million was a conservative estimate for the turnout.

Some of the mourners carried placards reading: "No reconciliation under the Marcos regime", "Marcos is a great liar" and "A bullet will never subdue the principles Ninoy (Aquino) upheld". Others said: "Ninoy you are not alone" and "Marcos you are alone".

Police kept a deliberately low profile, as though riot squads were on standby in case of trouble. By nightfall, with the cortege still moving at little more than a walking pace, no serious incidents had been reported.

At exactly 7pm people threw their car horns, and banged tin cans, pots and pans and rubbish

bin lids in many parts of the city in a "noise barrage" protest against Aquino's murder.

The former senator was shot 10 days ago as he stepped off the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines after three years of self-imposed exile in the United States.

Police yesterday identified the alleged killer as Orlando Galman, aged 33. They described him as a notorious killer and hired gunman with underworld connections and perhaps links to subversive elements.

But Mr Cesar Virata, the Prime Minister, said: "Government elements" could also have been involved in the killing. Mr Enrique Fernando, the chief justice, named to head an official inquiry into the murder, said Mr Galman's family had been taken into protective custody.

The mourners at the funeral included students, office workers, labourers, civil servants and Filipinos from outside Manila, many singing hymns and patriotic songs.

Yellow-bunting decked trees and lamp-posts, spectators showered the procession with confetti torn from the yellow pages of telephone directories. Many people wore yellow clothing or carried yellow umbrellas.

For Filipinos and followers of Aquino, yellow recalls the song of another former President, said: "I think it is about time the Government listened to the people who are voting with their feet at this funeral."

sentences of death for murder, subversion and illegal possession of arms when President Marcos let him go to the United States for heart surgery in 1980.

At least six ambassadors, two acting chiefs of mission, many senior diplomats and a capacity congregation of at least 10,000 attended the funeral service at the Santo Domingo church near Aquino's family home.

But there were apparently no representatives from the Marcos Government or from Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia, which, with the Philippines, make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Cardinal Jaime Sin, leader of the country's 42 million Roman Catholics, led the funeral service, pleading for peace.

"With his death, let us not blind ourselves to the fact that he came back not for confrontation but for reconciliation," he said. "There is an atmosphere of repression and a climate of fear... his death personified Filipino courage in the face of oppression."

Outside the church Mr Diosdado Macapagal, who preceded Mr Marcos as President until 1964, said: "I have never in my life seen anything like this. Marcos should realize that it is time for him to go but of course he will not."

Mr Ramon Magsaysay, the son of another former President, said: "I think it is about time the Government listened to the people who are voting with their feet at this funeral."



Final farewell: Thousands escorting the coffin of Benigno Aquino through central Manila yesterday. The funeral march took 12 hours.

Nigeria chief denies raising private army

Lagos (Reuters) - The Governor of Nigeria's western Ogun state has denied charges by the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) that his government had recruited a private army to foment trouble during the country's series of five elections.

Chief Bisi Onabanjo, of the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), who was returned for a second four-year term as governor in an election on August 13, said on television on Tuesday that his state had no private army, but a security unit set up in 1981.

The NPN secretary-general, Mr Utha Ahmed, said on Saturday that the recruitment and training of the "men of destruction" was part of a masterplan by the UPN to resort to violence in the event of losing this year's elections.

Chief Onabanjo said the existence of the security unit was known to President Shagari, the national police chief and the head of the national security organization.

The unit became necessary because the national police command in Ogun "was found to be reluctant to provide or found to be capable of providing adequate protection to government functionaries, properties and institutions on a number of occasions," he said.

Ogun is the home state of the UPN leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who lost to Mr Shagari in the presidential poll on August 13.

6. The UPN reaffirmed its control of Ogun and Lagos states in four of the five elections already concluded.

Violence erupted in the other two UPN-controlled western states of Oyo and Ondo during governors' elections.

Police said 33 people were killed in the Oyo violence, but the state's NPN leader told reporters in the state capital of Ibadan on Tuesday that more than 100 people had died.

Elections to the Senate, the House of Representatives and state assemblies have been postponed indefinitely in the two states.

In the latest results of Saturday's House of Representatives election, President Shagari's NPN appeared set to win overwhelming control of the 450-member lower house.

With 277 returns in from the 17 states where voting took place, the NPN had taken 186 seats, 18 more than its total share in the lower house after army-supervised elections in 1979.

The UPN was trailing with 31 seats. Balloting has still to take place in the two western states where the UPN won most constituencies in 1979.

In the elections already completed this month, President Shagari won a second four-year term, while the NPN took 13 state governorships and 55 of the 85 Senate seats contested.

Carter gives backing to Mondale

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Mr Walter Mondale has received the endorsement of Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President whose deputy he was, in his attempt to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the presidential elections next year.

Mr Mondale, the front-runner among six Democratic hopefuls but has been losing ground in recent months to Senator John Glenn. The Mondale camp hope Mr Carter's support will improve their candidate's standing in the south where he is now trailing behind Senator Glenn.

Although Mr Mondale was delighted with the fulsome praise which Mr Carter showered upon him, his endorsement by the former President could prove a mixed blessing.

It is widely believed that Mr Mondale's association with the unpopular Carter Administration is a major weakness in his candidacy.

Yesterday Mr Carter graciously assisted his former vice-president by saying: "It would be a mistake for him politically or otherwise to be closely associated with me or too much dependent on the policies I espoused as President."

He added that Mr Mondale offered a good balance of progressive views on social and domestic issues and conservatism on fiscal policies.

US 'feared De Lorean success'

From Iver Davis
Los Angeles

American Embassy officials in London feared that if Mr John De Lorean was successful in making sports cars in Belfast it would be a severe blow to the American car market, according to secret cables made public here yesterday.

The cables were filed in Los Angeles Federal Court as part of Mr De Lorean's efforts to show that Washington pressured the British Government to destroy his sports car operations. They were made public under the Freedom of Information Act and showed that in 1978 the American Embassy in Britain worried that Mr De Lorean's car company would give him an unfair advantage over American car manufacturers.

They said: "It is the embassy's initial view that the United Kingdom government payments also would directly benefit De Lorean car exports, permitting lower prices, and give them an unfair Government-financed advantage over competitors in the US market. It was suggested that the American Government should privately protest about the loans to the British Government although there was no indication this was ever done."

Mr De Lorean, who is due to stand trial on cocaine smuggling charges, was being kept under close scrutiny by the State Department, according to the cables.

Ulf and his one-armed bandit fight the law

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A special committee of the Swedish Parliament will be convened this month to discuss the remarkable case of 14-year-old Ulf Linde who wants permission to install a "one-armed bandit" in his bedroom.

Ulf bought the machine from abroad in January this year. It is damaged, unable to take coins or pay out jackpots. Ulf wanted it "for decoration". He said: "I've always wanted one - I don't know why."

However, one-armed bandits are banned under Sweden's strict anti-gaming laws, so to be on the safe side Ulf telephoned the police in his home town of Umea to ask their advice. The police referred him to the county council for the province of Vasterbotten. The county council passed the matter over to another body, the Lottery Authority, which issues

licences for the limited forms of gambling that still exist in Sweden.

The authority's chairman, Mr Johan Palm, was outraged. "It would be the same as applying for leave to operate a still in order to manufacture alcohol at home," he said. Permission was duly refused.

Ulf doggedly took the matter to government level. He appealed to the Ministry of Education, claiming the machine to be a museum piece.

A senior civil servant, Mrs Angela Gardner, has now been ordered to draw up a preliminary report on the matter for submission to a government committee which will decide the bandit's fate later this month.

The affair has taken nine months to get this far. "I'm still hopeful," said Ulf.

Jesuits begin search for a new leader

From Peter Nichols, Rome

About 220 Jesuits from all over the world formally begin the task today of seeking a new general to lead the Roman Catholic Church's most formidable religious order.

Their next head, who succeeds the ailing Father Pedro Arrupe, will face the delicate task of reestablishing an acceptable working relationship with the Pope. Father Arrupe did not have such a relationship and also is now partially incapacitated as the consequence of a stroke.

His resignation, the first in the order's history by a general, will take place on Saturday, when solemn homage will be paid to his work.

The general congregation to elect his successor is the thirty-third in the nearly 450 years of the Order's existence and the only one to take place at the time when the Jesuits are ruled by a delegate personally appointed by the Pope.

Father Paolo Dezza, the octogenarian chosen by the Pope to superintend the affairs of the 26,000 Jesuits, said yesterday that he thought the new General would emerge after about a fortnight. There are no official candidates and the successful candidate must obtain an absolute majority.

He himself foresaw a General who would bring "greater reflection and penetration". A more thoughtful generalship was the implication after the active and

controversial leadership of the Spaniard Father Arrupe.

At the time of the appointment of Father Dezza in October 1981 the Pope also named Father Giuseppe Pittau as his deputy. Father Pittau, who is himself a candidate, says that they should look for a person who loves Jesuit traditions but would know how to act in a creative way to meet modern challenges.

The proverbial prudence of the Jesuits (recommended by St Ignatius himself, the first General, as a quality essential for a head of the order) reduces talk of candidates but half a dozen names are heard with some frequency. That of Father Pittau is usually the first, although his election could be taken as meaning too much readiness to make the Pope happy.

The same would be said of Father Dezza, who has the additional disadvantage of his venerable age. St Ignatius maintained that a General should be neither too young or too old. With becoming modesty, Father Dezza has pointed out that at the age of 82 he has little more to look forward to.

He himself gave a clue to another name, that of Father Roberto Tucci, Director-General of Vatican Radio and organizer of the Pope's journeys.

Leading article, page 11

In the first few days as a student, you'll find you cannot live by brains alone.

You'll need money. And to turn your grant cheque into money you'll need a bank account.

But if you wait until you get there before you open one, your spending power in those first critical days may be somewhat limited.

It takes time to deal with applications, time to print your name on a cheque book, time to clear grant cheques.

Fortunately, time is one thing you've got right now. Complete the coupon, send it back to us at least two weeks before your term begins (but

after you've heard you qualify for an LEA grant) and your cheque card, cheque book and Servicecard will be waiting when you arrive.

You'll find us easily enough—we have more on-campus branches than any other bank.

Our Current Account banking service is commission free, of course, while you remain a student, and for six months after, even if you're overdrawn.

And for starters, we'll even put a fiver in your account. You should get through that without too much difficulty.

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I would like to start using your Students Service.

Surname Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

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Home address

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Tick if statements and other correspondence to be sent to term-time address ☐

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Course

Length of course

Signature

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Date of Birth

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Malaysia losing battle to curb powers of King and sultans

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Parade to mark independence

Signs are increasing that the Malaysian Government may have misjudged when it rushed through Parliament last month constitutional amendments, which would effectively reduce the monarch's power to delay legislation and to declare an emergency.

The King must still sign the changes before they become law, and that is becoming unlikely because Malaysia's nine sultans and the King elect among themselves every five years all reject the amendments as unconstitutional and enjoy much more support than the Government on the issue.

Malaysia's rulers have more powers than is usual for constitutional monarchs.

When republican sentiments surfaced briefly after the 1969 racial riots, Parliament and the state legislatures made it seditious and unconstitutional to reduce the ruler's entrenched powers without their consent. MPs also lost their immunity when speaking on such matters in the house.

So, when Parliament passed a Bill in August incorporating 22 constitutional amendments, two of which reduced the powers of the rulers, a confrontation was inevitable.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, controlled the debate by ordering his ruling coalition MPs and senators and the press not to highlight the debate on the rulers' powers and prerogatives.

Malaysia yesterday celebrated the twenty-sixth anniversary of independence from British colonial rule, with an armed forces parade in Kuala Lumpur attended by several thousand people.

The King took the salute at the march past of the three branches of the defence forces and representatives of the multiracial population including civil servants and students.

Since the Bill also increased the number of parliamentary and state assembly seats and removed the Privy Council as the final court of appeal in civil cases, there was plenty to be debated. Some legal experts say the amendments are unconstitutional and seditious.

Under the amendments, a Bill would become law 15 days after it came before the King whether he assented or not, and he could no longer declare a state of emergency, power given to him only two years ago.

A principal objection among the politically dominant Malay community is that it is theoretically possible, now, for Malaysia to become a republic within 15 days. The Malays see the rulers as their insurance against non-Malay dominance, while the non-Malays see them as a sobering influence against executive excesses of the

Malay-dominated federal and state governments.

The rulers, to a man, feel threatened by the substance of the amendments and would oppose them on procedural grounds. The Prime Minister did not discuss them, as the constitution required, with either the King or the rulers, a palace source said. The rulers are taking legal advice.

The King is unlikely to give his assent: there is talk he might be deposed if he did. The Government may wait until after April next year, when his term expires, and introduce the Bill again, thought probably in a different form.

The nine state governments - four others have federally-appointed governors - have been unable to call their state assemblies to pass similar laws because of opposition from the rulers. In one state, the sultan refused an audience to his Menteri Besar (Chief Minister) to discuss the amendments.

One reason for the amendments was the fear that the exuberant and independent-minded Sultans of Pahang and Johore, who under the rules stand the best chance to be the next two kings, could cause difficulties during their reigns.

But palace sources say the sultans would have suggested a way out of that without amending the constitution.

The rulers meet in special session next month to discuss the problem.



Courting arrest: Guizar Begum, a woman union leader, just before her arrest at a Karachi court. She was protesting with lawyers against martial law

Prison population doubles in Sind

The jail population in the Pakistan province of Sind has increased by about 3,500 since August 14 when the opposition launched its campaign against martial law.

According to a report in a Karachi newspaper, there are now 5,830 prisoners in 12 Sind jails compared with 2,500 on August 14. The jails still have room for another thousand prisoners but additional temporary cells and centres for special

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

detainees are reported to be overcrowded.

The Karachi administration is said to have been caught out by the disappearance from hospital of Mir Ghans Bux Bizenjo, the Baluchi leader of the Pakistan National Party, who had been receiving medical treatment while in detention. Mir Ghans Bux Bizenjo, who is not formally aligned with the eight party Movement for Restoration of Democracy which is responsible

for the present agitation, has however, urged his followers to join the struggle.

Meanwhile the Jamaat Islami leaders who met general Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, on the eve of his present visit to Turkey, are considering street protests to counter the MED campaign against martial law. The Jamaat generally backs President Zia's proposed reforms and goes along with its political programme.

Hongkong reserves claimed by China

Hongkong (AFP) - A senior Chinese official was quoted yesterday as saying that Britain must unconditionally return all Hongkong's reserves, about \$4bn (about £2.7bn) after China resumes sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

The official, of the New China news agency here, was quoted by the *Oriental Daily News* as saying that the reserves would then be used to stabilize the Hongkong dollar on the world money market.

But a Hongkong spokesman commented: "As has been stated by the Secretary for Monetary Affairs, Mr Douglas Hogg, on numerous occasions, Hongkong's reserves are controlled by the Hongkong Government, not the United Kingdom Government."

The Chinese official was also quoted as saying that the reserves belonged to the Hongkong people and China had already said at talks with Britain that the reserves must be returned to the Government of Hongkong formed after 1997.

The government spokesman, noting that talks on Hongkong's future are confidential, said that yesterday's report suggested a deliberate attempt to stir public opinion and sound out the British Government.

According to the report, the official said that after China's resumption of sovereignty Hongkong people would be free to travel on Hongkong-issued Chinese passports, and that the legal system would remain unchanged with the Supreme Court to hear final appeals.

He also "guaranteed" that the Chinese Government would give the new Hongkong government all-out support in its foreign trade and economy.

Exodus feared: Doctors, architects and lawyers are expected to leave

Hongkong in mass exodus if the Sino-British talks do not give guarantees of personal freedom and independence (Richard Hughes writes)

The president of the Hongkong Medical Association, Dr Namalis Yuen predicts that "at least 80 per cent of Hongkong's 5,000 doctors will leave if the talks end unfavourably."

He added: "Some doctors who are in the process of applying for resident status in Western countries have already sent their wives and children abroad while they maintain a wait-and-see attitude."

"Others are already getting their immigration papers to go overseas. Some have bought passports from the Dominican Republic." The president of the Hongkong Institute of architects, Mr Edward Ho, said that many architects were already talking about leaving.

"If there is an exodus of architects, it will not come in 1996 but much sooner, and probably even in the next few years." "It is an urgent problem for architects and not just a matter of politics."

The former chairman of the Hongkong Bar Association, Mr Martin Lee, QC, has already sounded a warning that most lawyers can be expected to leave Hongkong before 1997 "if they get no guarantee from China of independence of the judiciary."

Another controversy - which ironically weakens Hongkong's legal claims - is listed high on the programme of the Commonwealth law conference, which opens next month: the translation of Hongkong laws into Cantonese.

One leading Hongkong barrister said: "How can we urge the Chinese to retain our existing laws when half of them are not even written in the Chinese language?"

Police clear estate of protesting workers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

For the sixth time in as many days, the Guardia Civil bodily removed dozens of unemployed farm labourers from a large privately owned estate near Seville, as a union-backed campaign to improve the lot of Spain's landless farm workers gained momentum.

Other actions occurring just about every day in Western Andalusia include sit-ins by jobless workers on main roads, the occupation of churches and town halls and protest marches. A plan to block national highways and railways in the south was dropped after Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, remarked publicly that such actions would be considered illegal.

Prime movers of the campaign are the Farm Workers' Union, a left-wing organization whose members damaged farm machinery when the Centre Party was in power but have shown more restraint under the Socialist Government. The farm federation of the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, Spain's biggest trade union, is also active. The Socialist-led General Labour Union has played a predictably minor role in the campaign to embarrass the Government into doing something about endemic

unemployment in the area where Señor Gonzalez once practiced as a labour lawyer.

The immediate objective is to get more money out of a make-work programme funded by the Government to carry out small public works projects in poor villages. They want the rule that limits the number of members of a single family who collect such money to be waived, and they want to be allowed to work more days per month. Their long-term aim is to force the adoption of an agrarian reform programme.

In the meantime, the Farm Workers' Union insists that farm owners should be obliged to hire at least one worker for every 80 acres. The union also wants landowners to switch to more labour-intensive crops and do away with most machinery.

Next Monday leaders of the Workers' Commissions will head a march of jobless workers which is to set out from Badolatosa, near Seville, and walk through much of Andalusia for the following 35 days. On September 10 the Farm Workers' Union will open its congress in Marinaleda, also near Seville, a town which made the headlines under the previous regime because of its repeated hunger strikes designed to emphasize poverty in the area.

Daughter locked up in love tangle

Palermo (AP) - Sicily's Anti-Mafia police, acting on a tip from a desperate lover, freed a 23-year-old woman who was locked up semi-nude by her parents for wishing to marry a divorced man.

Police in the town of Carini, nine miles east of here, found Signorina Eugenia Nobile in the home of a neighbour where she had been held for two days.

The woman, who had been stripped to her underclothes to prevent her escape, was put there by her parents because she refused to renounce her plans to marry Signor Salvatore Grigoli, a 29-year-old bricklayer in the process of divorce. "My parents consider it a dishonour to marry a divorced man," she told her rescuers.

Police arrested 44-year-old Signora Grazia Sanfilippo for holding the woman captive. "For doing a favour to my friends by taking in their dishonourable daughter I have been arrested. It doesn't make sense," Signora Sanfilippo said.

Police could not find Signorina Nobile's parents.

£2.2bn bill for floods in Spain

Madrid (Reuters) - Damage caused by weekend floods which killed at least 31 people in northern Spain has been provisionally estimated at about £2.2 billion, regional officials said here.

The death toll has been revised downwards from an original figure of 37 given by rescue workers.

The preliminary estimate included damage to roads and rail links, industries and businesses as well as crops and livestock losses. No breakdown of the figures was immediately available.

About 26,000 people in the Basque country alone could lose their jobs because of wrecked factories and businesses. The Basque country and Cantabria, worst hit by the heaviest August rains in 20 years, were expected to be declared disaster areas by the Cabinet in Madrid.

In Bayonne, France, police said they had found the body of a 71-year-old woman in a car, bringing to six the French death toll in the floods. The body was discovered in the Pyrenean town of Saint Jean de Luz.

Jailed tax rebel could topple Danish Cabinet

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Mr Morgens Gistrup, tax lawyer and leader of the anti-tax Progress Party, went to prison near Elsinore yesterday to serve a three-year sentence for gross tax fraud. The sentence poses a serious threat to the life of Denmark's eleven-month old Conservative-Liberal coalition.

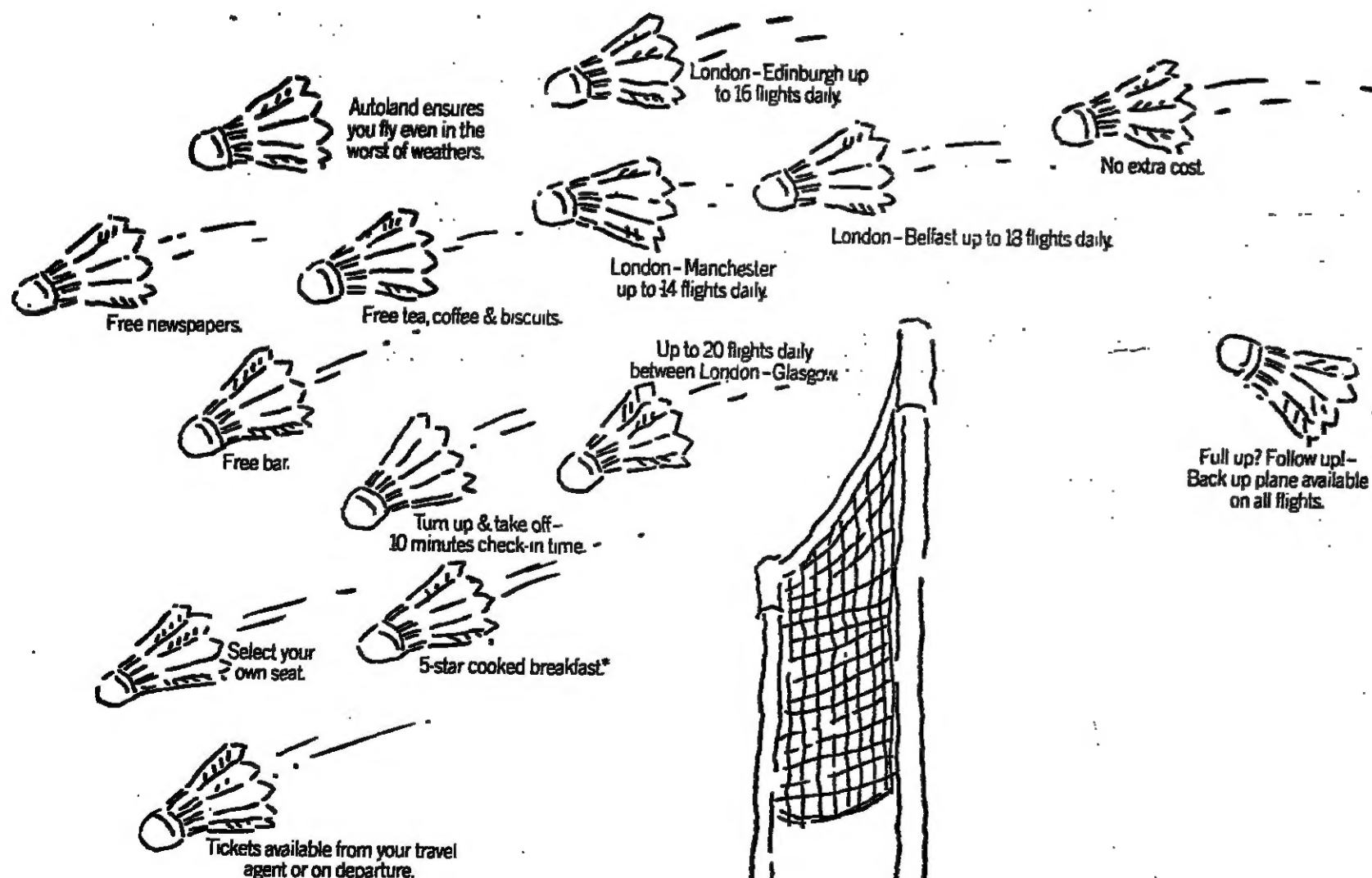
Mr Gistrup, aged 57, was sentenced in the Supreme Court legal fight. In addition to the prison sentence he was ordered to pay 6m kroner (£410,000) in fines, back taxes and legal costs. He was subsequently expelled from the Danish Parliament.

The American trained lawyer leaves behind him a wrangling, deeply split party, embittered by the sentence of its founder, which looks like bringing down the government at an extraordinary session of the Folketing (Parliament) to be held on September 9.

The four-party minority coalition of Mr Poul Schluter the Conservative Prime Minister, needs the support of the Progress Party to pass vital legislation. Mr Schluter has said his Government will resign and call elections in October, if the legislation, cutting grants to local authorities, is not passed next week.

The Progress Party, Denmark's sixth biggest, has only 13 members in Parliament after three members resigned to support the Government.

With Mr Gistrup apparently determined to exact revenge on the Government and manipulate his fellow politicians from his prison cell, the divided residue of his party is threatening to defeat the Government unless it meets the Progress Party's demands for stable income tax reductions in the current series of negotiations.



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Counting the cost in Lebanon

Battles in Beirut force Reagan to review role of the Marines

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The fighting in and around Beirut is forcing the Reagan Administration to review the role and size of the US contingent in the multinational peace-keeping force.

Although President Reagan has told Congressional leaders that the 1,200 Marines have only been involved in "sporadic fighting" and their status therefore remains unchanged, it has become clear that if hostilities between Lebanese factions continue at their present level, the US may have to consider sending more troops.

The Marines were sent to Lebanon a year ago to help shore up the authority of President Amine Gemayel's government and bring peace to the country.

However, a decision to send more troops would inevitably provoke opposition in Congress, where demands have already been made calling for a provision in the War Powers Act to be invoked which would allow Congress to demand the recall of the US contingent within 60 to 90 days.

For the moment the administration hopes the initiative by Mr Robert McFarlane, the President's special envoy, may succeed in reconciling the Lebanese factions. While his talks are in progress US officials have been trying to play down the scale of the fighting, which has resulted in the deaths of two American and four French military personnel.

US officials have emphasized that the Marines had not been involved in "combat operations" and that they had only fired in self-defence. They said that the troops remained in Lebanon in a purely peace-keeping role.

For the moment President Reagan is trying to avoid a Congressional review of the Marines' continued presence in Lebanon. In his letter to Congressional leaders the President pointed out that as the Marines had only been involved in sporadic fighting it was not necessary for him to invoke a provision in the War Powers Act which would theoretically allow Congress to veto their continued deployment in Lebanon.

Saying that he did not know how long the Marines would have to remain there, he wrote: "I believe that the continued presence of these US forces in Lebanon is essential to the objective of helping to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon."

Although the renewed fighting has not forced the President to abandon his holiday in California, he has spent much of his time during the past three days conferring by telephone with aides staying at a nearby hotel and with a "special situation group" which has been "set up" in Washington.

This group is headed by Vice-President George Bush and includes Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, Defence Secretary.

Senator Charles Mathias (Republican, Maryland), who is an author of the War Powers Act, has added his voice to those who are urging the President to seek Congressional authorization if he intends to keep the Marines in Lebanon.

US accused by Russia of blackmail

Geneva (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday accused the United States of trying to blackmail Arab states into accepting President Reagan's Middle-East peace plan.

In a speech to the UN conference on Palestine, Mr Vladimir Vinogradov, the head of the Soviet delegation, yesterday said that the Reagan plan was aimed solely at Israeli domination and Arab capitulation.

The plan proposes an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories coupled with the creation of a Palestinian entity associated with Jordan.

Mr Vinogradov said that it was aimed at "giving Israel a dominant position not only with regard to the Palestinians but also to other neighbouring Arab peoples".

"The US was telling the Arabs to accept the Reagan plan or resign themselves to a position of stale present intolerable situation," he said, adding: "If this is not blackmail, then what is it?"

A draft declaration proposed by a working group implicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist by mentioning "the right of all states in the region to existence within internationally-recognized boundaries".

The Arab group submitted amendments, proposed by Syria, which omit this clause, simply calling on the Security Council to "institute guarantees of peace between states in the region".

Chouf pull-back delay angers Israeli troops

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Widespread discontent has been reported among the 2,000 Israeli troops based in Lebanon's troubled Chouf mountains after Tuesday's surprise government decision once again to delay their redeployment to a more secure front line further south along the Awail River.

News of anger and concern at the postponement - the third in a matter of weeks - was disclosed by Israeli military correspondents who had been taken to the area in preparation for the pullback, which had been scheduled to begin at first light yesterday.

Ill-feeling among the troops has been compounded by the fact that they have been living under harsh field conditions for several weeks in preparation for a rapid withdrawal, a dangerous exercise which will be complicated by the narrow, pot-holed roads over which the convoys will travel.

It is understood that disappointment over an earlier delay was bluntly expressed to Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, when he made a tour of positions near Beirut last week.

Before that postponement - again, American-inspired - a battle had been expected to break out because of one Israeli soldier's remark: "We are finally moving in the right direction".

The latest delay has also angered many Israelis who have relatives serving their annual reserve duty in Lebanon. All those I spoke to yesterday were adamant that the operation should begin at once, even at the cost of damaging relations with the Reagan Administration.

"It is our men that are risking their lives for nothing up there, not anyone sitting in Washington or California," a Jerusalem housewife said.

Despite the political turmoil caused by the resignation of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, Israeli officials remain confident it will not affect the final decision for a partial withdrawal. It was noted that Mr Arens is not involved directly in the leadership struggle, as he is not a Knesset member and therefore not eligible.

Tuesday's postponement was the last decision sanctioned by the Prime Minister before he announced his intention to stand down. Israeli sources say the redeployment will go ahead before the New Year holidays begin in the middle of next week.

According to yesterday's Israeli reports - all of which had been submitted for censorship - senior officers in the Chouf are worried that the latest delay will be used by Israel's many enemies in Lebanon to organize for a full-scale attack against the retreating Israeli armour.

The Israelis have taken elaborate precautions for what is considered the strong possibility of having to retreat under fire. After Tuesday's decision to agree to President Reagan's request, they fear they have lost the element of surprise, which was their strongest card in ensuring a relatively safe manoeuvre.

Falklanders to put case at UN

From Zdzislaw Pysarski, New York

The Falklands sovereignty issue has become a distant reality for a pressing preoccupation for most members of the UN Decolonization Committee.

Late last night it was due to begin debating whether Britain and Argentina should resume negotiations.

In the more subdued atmosphere, debating skills and powers of argument of the two main opponents are expected to take on added importance. The dangle or dreariness of their presentations could make a lot of difference to members torn between supporting Argentina as a member of the non-aligned movement or Britain, in deference to its role in international diplomacy.

Mr John Cheek and Mr Tony Blake, elected members of the Falklands Legislative Council, were due to begin the proceedings as petitioners. They, as well as Britain, are expected to emphasize self-determination as the issue of paramount importance in the conflict, and the brutal way in which Argentina interrupted their way of life.

Mr John Cheek, Flea for self-determination, which Argentina interrupted their way of life.

Argentina and its Latin American supporters are expected to insist Britain as an imperialist power bent on retaining its remaining colonies for strategic purposes. The principle of negotiation will also be emphasized.

Venezuela began circulating a draft resolution on Tuesday requesting Britain and Argentina to resume negotiations and expressing its support for the renewed good offices mission undertaken by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, on the basis of last year's General Assembly resolution.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar briefed Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's Foreign Secretary, about his recent visit to southern Africa where he was trying to find a solution to the Namibia problem.

They spent 75 minutes at the Foreign Office yesterday during which UN sources described as "very much a private visit" by the Secretary-General.

Whitehall officials were at pains to point out that the Falklands was only touched on during the discussions.

The UN conference on Palestine, the Gulf War, Chad and Afghanistan were also on the agenda. The Secretary-General flew back to New York later.

South Africa's insistence on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola remains the only obstacle to the implementation of a United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa), according to Dr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, who has just completed a diplomatic mission in the area.

In a report to the Security Council, he states that two issues still outstanding before his visit, the electoral system and the composition of the UN peace-keeping force to be employed during Namibia's transition to independence, have been settled.

He emphasizes that the attempt to link Cuban withdrawal with a Namibian settlement is unacceptable and can be dealt with only by those directly concerned.

In his report he goes on to say that the failure to resolve the Namibian problem has had disastrous results for Angola.

Although substantial progress has been achieved, he admits that there can be no real progress until an actual date is fixed for the start of the implementation of resolution No 435, which determines Namibia's transitional phase.

Salvador guerrillas and Stone to meet again

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

After the first substantive face-to-face talks between representatives of the Reagan Administration and the left-wing Salvadoran guerrillas, both sides expressed optimism and a determination to hold future meetings.

A communiqué signed by Mr Richard Stone, the United States special envoy to Central America and four political leaders of the Salvadoran left-wing coalition, the FDR-FMLN, said: "The meeting took place with an open agenda, in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual respect. It was agreed to maintain communication."

One of the Salvadoran negotiators said in an interview that the FDR-FMLN team had presented a "detailed written document" outlining their proposals for ending the four-year-old civil war. He said Mr Stone had presented nothing in writing, perhaps indicating that the United States was not taking the negotiations seriously.

On Tuesday, Dr Guillermo Ungo, the Salvadoran negotiator for the FDR (the Democratic Revolutionary Front) called the talks "a positive step" which "we hope will lead to a change of (United States) policy and strategy." But he said United States negotiating efforts might simply be "window dressing" designed to conceal the Reagan Administration's real aim of militarily defeating the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Another member of the Salvadoran team, Señor Ruben Zamora, who is the FDR-FMLN's chief political spokesman, said: "The United States has the key to opening the door for a political solution in El Salvador. The Salvadoran military is not going to start to travel the road of a political settlement unless the United States Administration gives it the green light."

The two Salvadoran leftist leaders said they had been seeking peace negotiations with the United States "for several years" and were willing to meet Mr Stone, Dr Henry Kissinger or any other American officials frequently.

They hoped that the FDR-FMLN's preliminary meeting early this week with the Salvadoran Government's Peace Commission would lead to peace talks.

Well-placed sources said the three-hour meeting between the US officials and Salvadoran negotiators centred largely on the two critical and intractable questions of elections and security.

Cuban issue the obstacle on Namibia

From Our Correspondent New York

South Africa's insistence on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola remains the only obstacle to the implementation of a United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa), according to Dr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, who has just completed a diplomatic mission in the area.

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Washington blamed for bases delay

From Mario Modiano Athens

Greece blamed Washington yesterday for a delay in signing the agreement about American military bases in Greece and said it would not tolerate the situation for long.

"We are setting no ultimatum," said Mr Dimitri Maroudas, the Government's chief spokesman. "But we shall not tolerate the perpetuation of the present status of the bases on the pretext that the signing is delayed."

The United States and Greece last month initiated a five-year pact on the bases. It supercedes agreements concluded over the past 30 years. The text was not divulged but the ruling Socialists insisted it satisfied their main campaign promises that the bases would be removed by a set date.

Government banners strung across streets and highways throughout the country announce that the bases will go by the end of 1988. "The bases are going," the slogans proclaim. "Our promises become deeds. National independence is regained."

The delay is embarrassing to the Greek Government, first because it increases scepticism about what was agreed, and second because Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, in announcing the initialling of the agreement on July 15 said the document would be released within a week or 10 days. Later the deadline was extended to "the end of August."

It now appears that difficulties emerged over the Greek translation of the negotiated English text, especially because the Greek Government insists that both texts should have equal force.

Mr Maroudas denied that the Greek version was being renegotiated.

Zimbabwe sabotage trial had racial overtones

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Zimbabwe's short history has produced more than a few courtroom dramas, notably the Jekere murder trial and the Inya treason case. But the circumstances which gave rise to the Thornhill sabotage trial and the dramatic intensity of the hearing seemed unprecedented, international interest and concern.

The six defendants included three men regarded by colleagues and superiors as outstanding officers of loyalty and integrity, likely one day to command the Zimbabwe Air Force. Each accused as he gave evidence must have been aware that whatever the trial outcome his career was in ruins, a future in Zimbabwe virtually out of the question.

For each of the 44 days of the trial the officers filed up to the court from the cells below, smiling and signalling gestures of encouragement to wives and relatives in the public gallery. During evidence of torture, which occupied a good deal of the proceedings, the wives showed visible signs of distress.

The racial overtones were inescapable. The accused were all white, the investigating officers all black. With two exceptions state witnesses were blacks and defence witnesses whites. The State maintained that the officers had betrayed the nation to a hostile white-ruled neighbour, the defence that they had come under suspicion in the first place because of their colour.

The sabotage was carried out in the early hours of July 25 last year when phosphorous grenades detonated in a dozen Hawker Hunter and Hawk fighters, reduced eight aircraft to smouldering wreckage, and badly damaged the rest.

Defence lawyers believed that the case hinged around the fifth

accused, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, a young former policeman in charge of security personnel at Thornhill, who was held briefly, released and then 15 days later re-detained.

The defence maintained that Air Lieutenant Lloyd, a depressive with suicidal tendencies, had been a wedge manipulated by police investigators to build their case. He was, Mr Henry Ogall, QC, said, the first officer to be tortured with electric shocks and thus to make an incriminating statement which implicated others. They in turn, the defence asserted, were then tortured or mistreated until they confessed and spread the net of incrimination.

Air Lieutenant Lloyd testified that in the two weeks after his first arrest he had rejected appeals by relatives to flee the country, "because I was an innocent man". But the defence advanced no explanation as to why he had incriminated so many other officers.

The State case, led by Mr Honor Mkhushi, rested solidly on the statement which he argued contained factual material capable of verification. Torture allegations did not fit with the smooth flow of handwriting styles and the amount of detail provided, he said.

The confessions followed similar patterns. The three most senior officers described approaches by Air Vice-Marshal Len Pink, a former chief of staff now retired in South Africa, who was said to have warned them that a plan to destroy the air force had been set in motion in South Africa and unless they cooperated their lives would be in danger.

The first defence witness was Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater,

former deputy commander of the ZAF, who said for 13 days after his detention he had been subjected to continuous interrogation under which he maintained his innocence. On September 12 he was hooded, driven into the bush and shot tortured. After that, he said, he wrote a false confession drawing on what he knew his interrogators wanted him to say.

Of the four officers who alleged they had been subjected to shocks three said they had contemplated suicide. Wing Commander John Cox said one interrogator told him: "During the war we learnt from you how to question properly."

Air Commodore Philip Pile, former Air Attaché at the Zimbabwe High Commission in London, admitted he had not been tortured before confessing but denied that the official air force board of enquiry which he headed was a cover up exercise. As evidence he cited the board's request to police to arrest Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, the sixth accused.

Air Lieutenant Weir, it turned out, was due to leave Zimbabwe a few days after the sabotage to join the South African Air Force as a pilot and the board sought his arrest to prevent him leaving.

This officer provided the most detailed statement on how the sabotage was supposedly carried out, saying that Air Lieutenant Lloyd had delivered the three saboteurs to his office at Thornhill and had later taken them to the aircraft. In his statement which he claimed had also been extracted under duress, Air Lieutenant Weir said he had picked up the three men after the explosives were planted and delivered them to a hotel.

Shuttle puts up satellite for India

Kennedy Space Centre (Reuters) - The space shuttle Challenger put a weather and communications satellite into orbit for the Indian Government yesterday, keeping up the shuttle programme's perfect record for deploying commercial payloads.

"We had a super day," Flight director Randy Stone said as the astronaut wound up his second day in orbit. "Everything was right on schedule right down the line."

The Indian Department of Space said the satellite would "go a long way in improving overall communications" in India. It would also help officials to predict natural disasters such as storms and floods.

Assets seized

Madrid (AFP) - The Spanish judiciary has ordered the seizure of all property held by Señor José María Ruiz Mateos, former president of Spain's leading private holding company Rumasa, which was nationalized on February 23.

Peak defiance

Chamonix (AP) - Three Polish Alpinists planted a huge red and white flag of the Solidarity trade union on top of Mont Blanc yesterday, the third anniversary of the Gdansk agreement establishing the union.

Waste hazard

Washington (NYT) - The amount of hazardous waste - 190 million tonnes being generated in the US is nearly four times higher than previously estimated, the Environmental Protection Agency has disclosed.

Somali deaths

Nairobi (AP) - At least 20 Somali soldiers and three civilians have been killed in rioting in four towns in Somalia's Bakool region bordering Ethiopia, the Somali rebel Hagan claimed.

Freedom row

Bad Bagnasid, West Germany. (Reuters) - Two East German teenagers a musician and a schoolboy escaped to the West after crossing the Baltic Sea in a dinghy.

Border blast

Königshefen (AP) - An explosion on the "death strip" badly wounded at least two East German soldiers clearing mines, the West German border patrol said yesterday.

Net sabotage

Karlshofen (AP) - An anti-submarine net guarding an approach to Karlskrona, the secret naval base in southern Sweden, was sabotaged by a man cutting through its moorings.

Moscow denial

Moscow (AFP) - The Soviet Union has strongly denied recent Turkish allegations that Moscow was helping to train Armenian terrorists in Syria.

Chinese visitor

Peking (Reuters) - The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian will pay an official visit to the US from October 10 to 15 after a six-day stay in Canada.

Sitting pretty

Brussels (AFP) - Two young Belgians have claimed a world record for sitting 55 hours in a bathful of warm pudding mixture.

Fire kills eight

Savanne, Georgia (AFP) - A fire in a mental hospital near here killed eight patients.



Last words: The masked leader of a group of hijackers meets the press after surrendering at Tehran airport

Iran's asylum offer ends hijack drama

Tehran (AFP) - Five hijackers, surrendered to authorities here yesterday after hijacking an Air France jetliner on a Vienna to Paris flight four days ago.

Three of the five earlier told a press conference on the tarmac of the international airport here that they had decided to surrender after being granted political asylum by Iran. They were taken to an undisclosed destination.

Earlier, it had been thought that there were only four hijackers.

The hijackers held 15 captives on board the aircraft during the four-day drama that took them to four different cities.

The airliner was commandeered last Saturday, then went to Geneva, Catania, and Damascus before arriving here on Sunday.

The hijackers had threatened to kill their captives several times and they twice tried to take off after seizing and Iranian interpreter and bartering his life for fuel supplies.

As the drama ended, 15 dazed hostages emerged from the aircraft into the sunlight and were whisked away for medical checks. The Iranian national news agency said they were in good health and would spend the night at a hotel here.

The hijackers surrendered after firing six shots in the air, according to journalists at the scene.

They said three masked men

wearing dark glasses got off the airliner and announced their surrender at the foot of the aircraft.

The three, refusing to disclose their nationality, said they made the decision after receiving a promise of political asylum from Iran.

They said they undertook their action to draw attention to "crimes committed by the French Government in Iraq, Lebanon and Chad".

Big spontaneous demonstrations were held on Tuesday evening outside the Ministry of the Interior and in West Berlin as Social Democrats and Green MPs accused the Government of joint responsibility for the death of Mr Kemal Altun, who jumped from a sixth floor window in Berlin during a court hearing.

His lawyer, the Greens and many left-wing groups called on Herr Zimmermann to resign, saying that it was his challenging of the decision by the Federal Office for the Recognition of Refugees to grant Mr Altun asylum that had driven the young Turk to kill himself.

Opposition groups referred to a letter Herr Zimmermann is said to have written in July to Herr Hans Engelhard, the Minister of Justice, insisting Mr Altun should be deported, "in the interests of good cooperation with Turkey in the political field."

President Mitterrand's Socialist French Government, which once took pride in claiming that it had one of the most liberal policies towards immigrants in the West yesterday announced a series of tough new measures designed to crack down on illegal immigrants in the face of growing racism at home.

With 4.5 million foreigners registered in France, representing one in 12 of the population, France has the highest proportion of immigrants of any Western nation. More than half are Maghrebin Muslims from North Africa, who are the main target of the increasing resentment among the indigenous population.

Immigration of foreign workers intended to settle in France was stopped nine years ago, when the recession first began to set in. But relatives were still allowed to join their families, and hundreds of

Chadians claim rebels burnt village in south

Ndjamena (AP) - Libyan-backed rebels burnt down a Chadian village in the government-held south last week in a sudden upsurge of rebel activity in the area, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the Information Minister, said yesterday.

He told a press conference the rebels entered the unidentified village near the border of the Central African Republic, forced inhabitants to leave and then burnt down their huts. He said no one was hurt.

Roman Catholic missionary sources gave an account of the village burning which differed materially from that given by Mr Soumaila. The missionaries, requesting that their names be withheld, said the village was burnt by Government troops who suspected the inhabitants of siding Libyan-backed rebel gangs operating from across the border.

France cracks down on illegal immigrants

From Diana Geddes, Paris

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thousands of other immigrants found their way in illegally.

But the Government was still accused of being "soft" towards immigrants. The deepening economic crisis and increasing unemployment gave rise to fears. The Government recognized that it had to be seen to be tough, while at the same time taking care not to inflame racial tensions.

It was in recognition of the delicate balancing act that yesterday's new measures to block further illegal immigration were accompanied by other measures to assist the integration of legal immigrants into French society.

● BONN: Calls for the resignation of Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Minister for the Interior, and for a change in the laws on asylum echoed round West Germany yesterday as the row over the suicide of a Turkish asylum-seeker went on (Michael Binyon writes).

Herr Zimmermann visited Ankara last month, and suspicions are being voiced of a secret deal allowing Turkey's extradition requests in return for Turkish help in Bonn's attempts to limit the number of Turks coming to Germany.

The Government has reacted with shock and embarrassment to Mr Altun's suicide, as his case has already become a cause célèbre here and abroad, and numerous influential churchmen and human rights workers had demanded that he should be granted asylum.

The Ministry of the Interior insisted that it had acted correctly and humanely throughout the case. Mr Altun's lawyer had been told that extradition would probably not be carried out, and no move was contemplated before the Federal Supreme Court and the European Human Rights Commission had given their rulings.

SPECTRUM

Still running with Rabbit.

IN the 1950s, the people were all young and lived in couples. America was booming: "Purchasing power: young, newly powerful, born to consume." Give or take a disturbing affair of two, the couples were booming too. They lived in lofts in erotic lower Manhattan, poorish as junior executives or promising young writers are poor. But the museums were close, and there was always a bottle of wine with the lasagna. "Exhaust smoke, cigarette smoke, factory smoke, all romantic." The bomb loomed, the great cars puffed what later became pollution. But the times were good, the future promising, and everyone got pregnant - as John Updike, who knew or was or invented these people, reminds us in his story "When Everyone Was Pregnant" (*Museums and Women*).

So the couples became three and four. Purchasing power increased. It became time to commute to and from the Connecticut or Massachusetts shoreline, where the New Haven railroad or the Boston-New York shuttle brought the neat serious men back to the sexy delicate women and the children on the beach. But not all went well with the couples, grave people living in "the twilight of the old morality". Growing up from the 1950s was not easy. On the edge of their lives, history sounded uneasy messages: the tragic sinking of the submarine *Thresher*, the Kennedy assassinations. Churches caught fire, ministers were mystified by their ministry.

And there were always the sexual ceremonies, bodily ascensions in pursuit of carnal liturgy. (One reviewer once nicely called Updike the pornographer of marriage.) Neighbourhood adulterous celebrations became involved. Though they went on believing in the magic aura of marriages and families, divorces came along. As gravely as they had tried the Jackson Pollock exhibitions and the Valpolicella, the couples tried them too. Uncoupled, they recoupled. Now around 50, they go on, the women stretch-marked but charming, the men still grave and anxious, unsure what history did to their charmed domestic world, yet still capable of delighting in it, and going on growing rich.

John Updike, who not only wrote *Couples* (1968) but many, many stories about these gracious pairs, is just over 50 himself. With his second wife, Martha, he has just been in Britain for a quick, jet-lagging visit to the Edinburgh Festival, which now has a book fair and a "Meet the Author" programme. He was interviewed by Frank Delaney, and read from his books, introducing a novel due next year. This brings his production to around 30, and the young prodigy is in vogue not so young. None the less, despite a distinguished greying of the hair, the angular good looks and the boyish east coast charm and gentleness remain as fresh and fine as ever. He seems, himself, like one of a good couple. What is more, he has evidently found the process of growing older from the 1950s quite vitalizing, despite the tempest of change and domestic upset on which many of his books toss.

But in any case the couples were only a small part of an enormous stock of invention, an extraordinarily varied list of books, the product of a graceful, stylish but very versatile mind. Yet somehow they seem very close to the heart of his work, a base-camp from which the others feel free to explore.

Updike was born, in 1932, in Shillington, Pennsylvania. This provided him with the "Olinger" country of his early stories, *The Same Door* (1959) and *Pigeon Feathers* (1962), a



The Times Profile: John Updike

fine myth-novel, very much marked, though, by the fact that round this date myth was the great sub-structure for everything. Since then there has been the world of "sexy" Manhattan, and then the "Tarbox" country, north of Boston, where the couples tend to live, as does Updike too.

Updike is something of a sacral aesthete himself. The early stories, like John O'Hara's, are set firmly in a Pennsylvania region, but this was not an O'Hara voice. Like Henry James, he was evidently after a sensuous education; and these tales of adolescent delicacy, looking in ordinary things for form, the Joycean epiphany, the illuminating revelation that lights up art and life at once. It would not have been hard to guess from them that his education had taken him to Harvard, where he studied English literature and worked on the Harvard *Lampoon*, nor that he had gone on from there to art school - in fact, a Knox Fellowship to the Ruskin School in Oxford (indeed a story about dentistry in *The Same Door* celebrates this event). His hope was to be a cartoonist, but the stories and poems he wrote that year settled his fate. He was summoned from Illey Road to the editorial staff of the *New Yorker*, a natural habitat for a writer of his finesse.

He worked for two years as a "Talk of the Town" reporter on that wonderful magazine, founded for style, sophistication, and a good pat of his work has always appeared there, including his excellent reviews. The literary agents now said that, if you wanted to crack the magazine, you had to write like an Updike. Certainly, along with John Cheever, J. D.

Salinger and Donald Barthelme, he has been seen as the best of their modern finds. His writing had that special polish, that brilliance and on occasion over-brilliance of style, that fitted its pages. His antecedents were more Henry James or Edith Wharton than Hemingway, Faulkner, or Fitzgerald. The risk was that he could become an American equivalent to a British Hamstead novelist - socially knowing, stylistically charming, witty and self-limiting.

By the end of the 1950s, the beginning of the 1960s, the books were appearing in great profusion, from the fine, carpentered poems of *The Carpentered Hen* (1958) on. There were novels, like *The Poorhouse Fair* (1959), story collections, children's books, gatherings of essays and reviews. The versatility was apparent, but this could have become enclosed space, especially since now, in the new mood of the 1960s, careful formalism began to crack. The talk was of black humour, absurdism, spontaneous prose, experimental reportage, and something called Postmodernism.

Philip Roth, the powerful Jewish-American writer whose career in some ways parallels Updike's own, marvelously anatomizes the time in *My Life As a Man*. The moment was one of high literariness; all relationships were an aesthetic crisis. Girl friends turned into Isabel Archer or Anna Karenina, and one married for the moral strenuousness. Literature got us into this, Roth notes, and literature was going to have to get us out. Updike evidently recognized the tension too, and his work is the work of a survivor working through the artistic conflicts of American fiction through to the present.

Yet Updike did get out, or rather

amazingly extended his range, partly through some remarkable impersonations. There was, for example, *Rabbit, Run* in 1960, where he identifies with his *homme moyen sensuel*, "Rabbit" Angstrom, the ex-basketball player and entirely physical man who sets out, running, to lose his social and marital identity. At first this looked improbable Updike territory. But, like his friend and mentor, John Cheever, who so surprised us by moving from his Wapshot world to the penitentiary of *Falconer*, Updike opened up not only his social landscape but his style. *Rabbit* has stayed with him ever since. Two more novels follow him on and upward through commonplace American society to an ambiguous, late twentieth century form of heroism. *Rabbit*, in the middle of things, is rich.

Then there was *Bech*. It has always helped that Updike is a superb parodist, both a splendid and sympathetic literary critic and an artful stylistic impersonator. He grew fascinated by the dominance of the Jewish-American novel, and invented for himself an un-WASP surrogate in the hairy, promiscuous, slow-writing Jewish-American novelist *Bech*, who has grown used to being touted around hospitable campuses and festivals for his ethnic existential anguish and sexual aroma. *Bech: A Book* (1970) is a series of casually interlinked short stories about his Eastern European official tour. Subsequent visitors (I have been one) are regularly shown this Updikean socialist landscape, as they are the Olinger country or Tarbox; here is the Romanian critic, there the Bulgarian poetess.

Perhaps the most striking impersonation of all comes in his brilliant *The*



JOHN HOYER UPDIKE

born: March 18 1932
educated: Harvard College
1955-57 Worked as journalist for the New Yorker magazine
1958 Hoping for a Hoopoe (in America, The Carpentered Hen), poems
1959 The Poorhouse Fair; The Same Door
1960 Rabbit, Run
1962 Pigeon Feathers
1963 The Centaur
1965 Assorted Prose
1966 Of the Farm; The Music School
1968 Telephone Poles, poems; Couples
1969 Midpoint and other poems
1970 Bech: A Book
1972 Rabbit Redux
1973 Museums and Women
1974 Buchanan Dying, play
1975 A Month of Sundays
1976 Marry Me; Picked-Up Pieces
1977 Toasting and Turning, poems
1978 Rabbit Is Rich
1983 Bech Is Back

Coup (1979), where the narrator is Colonel Hakim Felix Ellelou, black dictator of the dry African state of Kush, who has been educated in the United States, and knows its wiles and corruptions. This is the most politically distanced of all Updike's novels, which usually take the realist's pleasure in the stuff of American reality. His books are uneasy celebrations of American life, troubled interplays between bright domestic interiors and dark history, which sense - like the couples themselves - that Grace has gone, but might be restored with aesthetic care and attention. They please a complex but large public; and Updike, too, is rich.

Updike's work had always walked carefully and seriously between familiar realism and the experimentalism that test it, between popularity and elaborate formal devotion. He not only knows but writes about the way in which the successful American writer is readily reduced to cozenage and imbecility. A new book of critical essays, *Hugging the Shore*, comes out soon, with a display of wide appreciation and a response to the most testing of our writers and critics: Italo Calvino, Muriel Spark, and the great American heritage of Melville and Hawthorne are among his subjects. In Edinburgh he aired a new novel which is neither *Bech* nor *Rabbit*. *The Witches of Eastwick*, set in the Vietnam period, should be out next year. Updike has been accused of sentimentalizing his women characters; he has tried here to challenge the view, which means challenging himself, the one thing his writing has always done. His survival has been made out of a rigorous artistic intelligence; and, in times when the contemporary American novel seems to have lost some of its glow and its direction, he is amongst the very best.

Malcolm Bradbury

Hugging the Shore will be published by Andre Deutsch in January, 1984.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Edinburgh When John Drummond, the retiring director of the Edinburgh Festival, was asked to look back on his tenure, he said in all honesty that he had spent two days a week on artistic matters and five days a week worrying about money. This came as something of a surprise to most people: they imagined that, dealing with the Lothian District Council, he would have had to spend all seven worrying about money.

Lothian District Council are the people who, to celebrate the success of the festival, decided to cut the grant to the festival this year and make things even harder for it. Their grant stands at about half a million pounds; compared to the £20m brought into the city by festival visitors, or indeed the £13m voted by the city for the coming Commonwealth Games, this is what farmers call peanuts. Lothian District Council are also the people who have made Edinburgh the laughing stock of the art world by postponing the building of an opera house for so long that they have now a hole in the ground. Sydney used to be famous for having an unfinished opera house; only Edinburgh can lay claim to having the world's finest unfinished opera house.

To put it another way, Lothian District Council are doing their best single-headed to restore the myth of Scots meanness. When asked earlier this week what could be done to improve the festival, one visiting director said immediately: "Move it to Glasgow". I don't know if it is a coincidence, but I have seen lots of cars this week with stickers reading "Glasgow Is Miles Better", and there was a blistering piece in *Wednesday's Glasgow Herald*, headed: "Can Edinburgh be saved from the shrivelled minds?" It was written by the ex-editor of *The Scotsman*.

Now, I have never met the Lothian District Council personally - I always find hearsay so much more informative - but I would wager a few bob that they would not mind the festival moving to Glasgow. Oh, there might be a twinge of injured pride, but the relief of not having to deal with the demands of visiting artists would be immense. Opera companies who demand opera houses to play in. Theatre companies who would like to have decent backstage conditions.

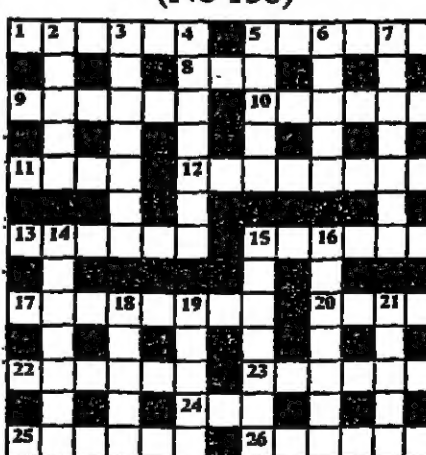
What they would like to keep, I guess, is the Fringe. The Fringe, after all, gets no grant and pays for itself, yet brings in more paying customers than the official festival. It is the dream of all councils: something which brings prestige to the place but for which they do not have to shell out a bean. The hole in the ground where the opera house was going to be is this year filled with tents, housing something like 40 different companies, paid for by themselves.

In other words, where other cities throw open their opera houses and theatres to artistic visitors, Edinburgh says: "Come if you like, but bring your own building with you, because you won't get any help from us." Where Edinburgh used once to take pride in putting up fine stone buildings, it now has Porakabin mentality. Its ultimate achievement is the Tattoo, which takes place entirely in the open air and requires nothing except scaffolding for the audience to sit on and get wet in, if necessary.

Edinburgh is still a great place, of course. It's the people at the top that frighten me. Alastair Dunnett, in his *Glasgow Herald* piece, recalls that he once asked a new Lord Provost of Edinburgh how he would like to be remembered by posterity. The Lord Provost gazed silently across the magnificent panorama of the Athens of the North and then said with emotion: "As the man who solved the city's parking problem".

Vision, indeed. Mind you Edinburgh has not been known as the Athens of the North for a long time now. I get the feeling that if the Lothian District Council were to send an observer to Athens today, he would come back mightily impressed by the amount of progress they have made with the Parthenon. He might even, if very impressed, suggest the erection of a small canvas temple in Edinburgh. As long as somebody else paid.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 138)



- ACROSS:
- 1 Slow gallop (6)
 - 2 Heart chambers (5)
 - 3 After (6)
 - 4 Moving vehicles (7)
 - 5 Epoch (3)
 - 6 Become aware (7)
 - 7 War fleet (6)
 - 8 Mysterious power (5)
 - 9 Celtic (6)
 - 10 Pretender (7)
 - 11 Nonsense (4)
 - 12 Happening (8)
 - 13 Indian tribe (6)
 - 14 Fuss (7)
 - 15 Common person (8)
 - 16 Become similar (7)
 - 17 Caper (6)
 - 18 Swamp (7)
 - 19 Rain protector (6)
 - 20 Swamp (7)
 - 21 Not confined (5)
 - 22 Of many colours (6)

SOLUTION TO No 137
ACROSS: 1 Piccadilly 4 Nicker 7 Oath 8 Camp site 9 Soapbox 12 Old 15 Hearty 16 Meteor 17 Mat 19 Rhapsody 24 Splinter 25 Ramp 26 Compel 27 Ethnic
DOWN: 1 Prop 2 Astronaut 3 Ducks 4 Nomad 5 Cash 6 Extol 10 Pater 11 Specs 12 Overdrawn 13 Dire 14 Wham 18 Appro 20 Hotel 21 Purg 22 Cusp 23 Epic

Plastic is on the move

A significant step along the road towards a plastic car will be taken by General Motors in the United States next month when it launches a two-seater sports model, the Fiero. This will be one of the first mass-produced cars from a big manufacturer to have a bodyshell of GRP (glass-reinforced plastic) instead of the usual steel and where General Motors leads, others are bound to follow.

Plastic bodied cars in themselves are nothing new. Small specialist companies in Britain like Lotus and Reliant have been using GRP for years but their bodies have been assembled and painted virtually by hand.

Plastic has two obvious advantages for cars. It is lighter than steel and, in the current quest for better fuel consumption, the saving of weight is one of the most important elements. Secondly it does not corrode, and after accident damage rust is the

biggest killer of a car. The problem has been adapting the manufacture and finish of plastic bodies to mass production. Now, with injection moulding techniques and the development of polyurethane paints that can be applied at temperatures low enough not to melt the plastic, the obstacles are being overcome.

Like the Lotus or Reliant, the GM Fiero still relies on a steel chassis for its strength and the completely plastic car is still far away. Meanwhile many plastic components are being introduced, which together can make a useful contribution to weight saving. Plastic bumpers, for instance, are becoming common on new cars (and they have the additional advantage of being able to absorb minor knocks without damaging the paintwork). Plastic fuel tanks are another area.

As for a plastic engine, we may see one in Formula 2 racing cars next year.

A company in New Jersey has produced an engine which is 90 per cent plastic and tough enough to withstand high temperatures. It is only half as heavy as a metal engine. The result is a fuel saving of 24 per cent, but at the moment the engine is too expensive to produce to be a practical proposition for the average road car.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: CAR DESIGN



Digital dashboard

A revolution will soon be taking place on the car dashboard. In place of the familiar series of dials there will be a single digital display on which the driver will be able to call up a range of information going far beyond that available on most cars today.

BL Technology's research programme on instrument and information displays has come up with a cathode ray tube as the means of producing clear and easily readable messages. In normal use the screen could give such information as vehicle speed, engine speed, the amount of fuel

in the tank, outside air temperature, total miles travelled, gear position and time of day.

Across the top of the screen, there would be a space, normally blank, for colour symbols to convey such messages as service due, heated rear screen on, sidelights/low beam on, main beam, parking brake on and seat belt unfastened. The two top corners of the screen are reserved for "malfunction" warnings and these could be divided into low and high priority. The less serious ones might include bulb failure, low washer fluid and worn brake pads; while high priorities (signalled in red) would be items like

low oil pressure, charging system failure and low brake fluid.

Overcharged?

Sir Clive Sinclair is a bold, talented and imaginative man, but there must be considerable scepticism about his plan to put a viable electric car into production in the next couple of years. Electric cars have been with us since the dawn of motoring, but the technology has not advanced sufficiently to overcome two very basic drawbacks - poor performance and limited range.

The batteries so far developed to power electric vehicles have been so heavy and space consuming and need recharging so often - every 50 miles or so - that they have been more suited to slow moving, short haul applications like milk floats and delivery vans, than cars. The electric cars that have emerged are mainly two-seater city runabouts, and they tend to end up in museums. The only one to go into serious production was the Enfield, but it failed to sell and the company went into liquidation.

So the prospects for Sir Clive Sinclair are not encouraging, though from the wizard of the pocket calculator, the micro computer and now the flat-screen television, almost anything seems possible.

The Sinclair electric car will apparently be a three wheeler, single-seater, designed for city use and it will, Sir Clive maintains, be "totally revolutionary in concept". But even if he can overcome the technological barriers, he must still produce the vehicle at the right price. The trouble with the Enfield 8000, apart from its limited range and power, was that it cost twice as much as a Mini.

is to patrol the way through a maze of unfamiliar streets and prevent the driver getting lost. Signals picked up by a magnetic sensor on the rear bumper which take into account speed and distance are translated by means of a pre-programmed cassette on to a fascia display. This gives two essential pieces of information - whether to turn left or right or keep straight on (indicated by an illuminated arrow) and distance to your destination.

Road sensor

Daimler-Benz in Germany has developed a computerized navigation system that could answer many a motorist's prayers. What it does is to patrol the way through a maze of unfamiliar streets and prevent the driver getting lost. Signals picked up by a magnetic sensor on the rear bumper which take into account speed and distance are translated by means of a pre-programmed cassette on to a fascia display. This gives two essential pieces of information - whether to turn left or right or keep straight on (indicated by an illuminated arrow) and distance to your destination.

Peter Waymark

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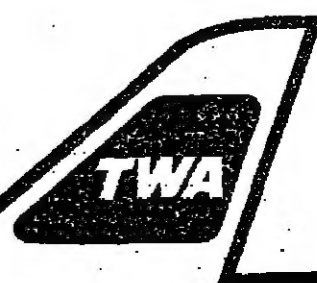
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BOOKS

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the biography of Vanessa Bell Her will to keep on painting

Vanessa Bell
By Frances Spalding
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95)

They can keep *I Tatti* by far the most alluring of the artistic menages of the years between the wars was undoubtedly Charleston, the farmhouse in East Sussex where the presiding genius was Vanessa Bell, the painter, Virginia Woolf's sister, who lived there, off and on, with Duncan Grant for 40 years.

So convincingly relaxed is the familiar scene at Charleston, as depicted in a multitude of memories of Bloomsbury Duncan and Vanessa at their easels, Virginia and Leonard calling in for tea, Clive Bell in a sunhat in a ruika on the terrace, naked children running wild in the garden while upstairs in a bedroom Maynard Keynes sits composing *The Economic Consequences of Peace* that one tends to forget the mechanics in the background, preventing Charleston lapsing into Fawley Towers. This was Vanessa's so far underexposed talent. Vanessa ordered meals and gave instructions to the servants, to whom the charms of Charleston were not always so apparent (a nurse she once employed described it as "a washout"). Vanessa brought the flowers in and carried out, with Duncan, much of Charleston's idiosyncratic decoration. She in fact created that whole atmosphere of Charleston, which so strangely and uniquely smelled of turpentine and toast.

Vanessa Bell emerges from Frances Spalding's sensitive and scholarly biography as an unexpectedly formidable figure, just as interesting, if not more so, than her sister. Her domestic powers of organization were remarkable, in that, seemingly without effort, she could transport her whole household and give or take a week, recreate the Charleston life almost anywhere in Europe, followed by whole cohorts of friends and hangers-on: the Bloomsbury Group peregrinations are amazing. And if her domestic energies were manifold, her amatory management was still more adept. For many, many years, practically for a lifetime, her husband, her lover Roger Fry, and Duncan, the man she loved, a homosexual, remained friends and stayed within her own orbit. No mean feat.

What Vanessa Bell created with such fervour, she protected. Her household at Charleston was, like Eric Gill's not far away at Ditchling, prone to unexpected visitors, especially in summer. These she fiercely kept at bay, even going so far as to erect an OUT sign at the end of the track which led to Charleston. Those who were IN at Charleston presumably would realize the sign had been erected for everyone but them.

"How much I admire this handling of life," said Virginia Woolf one day, in the rather gushing tone she often used about her sister, on whom she both depended and depended. Compared with Virginia, Vanessa's life was certainly in some ways more ambitious, more fecund, more complete.



Vanessa Bell painted by Roger Fry, 1911

Despite husband, lovers, children, throughout all the complexities and fascinations of life at Charleston, with immense determination, even a certain ruthlessness, "an attitude more common in the 1980s than 1920s," she cleared the time to work. The OUT sign went up for herself as much as Duncan. Her will to keep on painting is described by Frances Spalding as a steel rod which ran right through her, from which she would not and could not be deflected. This aspect of her life, on which Dr Spalding, also Fry's biographer, writes with great insight and authority, is impressive in itself and particularly interesting at this period of major reassessment of her work.

This biography is very long and very detailed, and at times it suffers from what one might call the Virginia Woolf Syndrome. ("When the latter left for a holiday in Spain in March 1905, she forgot her sponge bag", see p.56.) No one will agree with all interpretations of all the minor characters, or even of the major ones: the view of Duncan Grant as almost the epitome of careless promiscuity is, I feel, particularly questionable. But the central portrait of Vanessa Bell is full and generous and it rings wonderfully true.

What a woman of dramatic contradictions. Deeply sensual but choosing to spend most of the life with a homosexual (the homosexual who had only very recently been sleeping with her brother). Monumentally fastidious but able to encourage an affair and even cohabit with a man who was not her only daughter, child of hers and Duncan's, and a man Duncan himself had been in love with. Breath-takingly honest in her sexual behaviour, but unable to explain the facts of life to her own children. Almost a Ceres figure, munificently radiant, who could also be notoriously stingy, parsimonious with the wages. A housekeeper and manager with the wages. A woman of considerable distinction and dignity whose clothes were very likely to be safety-planned together. A person of immense sophistication and intelligence, whose view of the world was in other ways so circumscribed she once asked Mr Asquith, sitting next to him at dinner, whether he was interested in politics.

A compelling and an infinitely enigmatic woman whose only boring feature, so it now seems, was her bewilderment, nothing doing quite so badly as another era's lewdeuses. But even those characters they played on "sodomy" and "passion" have an awful period poignancy of sorts.

Novelist as critic

Diversity and Depth
in Fiction

Selected Critical Writings of
Angus Wilson

Edited by Kerry Mc-
Sweeney

(Secker & Warburg, £15)

The skills of the critic and of the novelist are as different as those of the map-maker and the landscape painter; it is a rare thing that the two are combined in a single genius. One thinks of the terrible pitfall Tolstoy wrote about Shakespeare, or of Trollope's disappointing book about Thackeray.

Sir Angus Wilson, however, as well as being one of the few post-war English novelists to come close to being "a great writer", has always been an astute and catholic critic of literature, his book on Zola amply demonstrating his first-hand knowledge of the man. One reads his books on Dickens and Kipling, not merely as literary biographies, but for the illumination they throw on the art of fiction itself: how it works. We can be glad, then, that in the year of his seventieth birthday, his publishers have commissioned a miscellany of his occasional essays and lectures.

That is not to say that the novelist and the critic always coexist very happily when Sir Angus has a pen in his hand. Indeed, it is the conflict between them which makes this volume so rewarding. He acknowledges this disarming in his essay, "The Novelist and the Critic", when he says, "One has only to name Henry James to remember that some of the greatest literary criticism has come from the practitioner, from the depth of his experience. Yet I am not inclined to suppose that a novelist is likely to have the abstracting sort of mind which will allow him to advance broad general theories of any particular merit." Precisely. The "broad general theories" come alive in this book when he writes freely from "the depth of his experience". When he is being a critic on a rostrum, he can write of Jane Austen, "The extremes of religious feeling as the extremes of evil passion she probably avoided. Yet one is still forced to

ask her what was her view of human nature", a question which, one suspects, she would have found comic. Yet the essay as a whole, "Evil in the English Novel" provides a classic contrast between over-sensitized accusations of evil in continental fiction and "that sense of felt life which is the glory of the traditional English novel". It is precisely because Jane Austen did not parade a "view of human nature" that we find her depiction of human characters so cruelly exact.

This is not to say that Sir Angus's best criticism is merely impressionistic; rather, that, because he does write as an experienced and deft practitioner, he is able to show how evil, comedy, and passion can only be analysed in fiction by coming to grips with the purely technical problems of their presentation. An example of this is to be found in his extraordinarily intuitive exposition of Meredith's *The Egoist*, in which he shows that the triumph of Sir Willoughby's character, as a work of art, comes about precisely because Meredith departed from his pompous view that "the test of true comedy is that it shall awaken thoughtful laughter", and that the greatness of Meredith is to be found more in his anarchic tight-rope walk between farce and pathos than in his epigrammatic and descriptive poses, so much admired by the Victorians.

A short review can do no justice to the most stimulating quality of Sir Angus's criticism, which is his expansive range. When we read these essays, we are not only inspired to turn back to Proust, Dickens, Zola, and Stendhal, but also to try such forgotten minor masterpieces as Sheila Kaye-Smith's *Joanna Godden*. He writes somewhere that his own novels are "born of the coexistence of a fierce sadism and a compensating gentleness". Some of the judgments in the book are severe. (He is unduly harsh to Compton Mackenzie, I think.) Some are perverse. (How odd to say of Proust's *Verdurins* that they are "much less good than Dickens's *Veneerings*".) But each essay is marked by a reverence for the great writers and a sensitive understanding of anyone who has tried his hand at the art in which he himself has achieved such eminence.

A. N. Wilson

The writing life

Donkey Work
By Edward Blighen

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

Edward Blighen is the Laurie Lee of the Secondary Moderns. His first book, *Roaring Boys*, about his teaching experience in them, turned him, in others' eyes, into an expert - an educational pundit. *Donkey Work* continues the story of Blighen's career as the "author of many thoughts on many themes", and tells how eager organizers constantly exploited, and promoted, him. As an infrequent contributor to the *New Statesman* he became, on introduction to one audience, its editor: "I felt upon each occasion the sort of ass one must feel when falsely identified with such a pretence of enthusiasm and knowledge." Simultaneously, he was conscious that any public pronouncement "even to the modest extent of a letter to the local newspaper was to let your head appear above the parapet."

Blighen says what many of us "lollymen" have been waiting to say for ages - it's donkey work: "broadcasting, reviewing, lecturing, wagging my finger to the time of five hundred words here, a thousand there, I'd become a sort of literary and educational beast of burden."

The pundit broadcast on the Third Programme, was invited to East Germany, lectured in Canada, and became a lecturer in a new university. His narrative is entertainingly anecdotal, about

the incompetent headmaster "who should have been forbidden by Act of Parliament to approach within a mile of any educational scene", about the boy he cured of lying ("Well, you always believed everything I said. So after a time I thought, 'What's the use?'"). It is an embroidered account of fact interwoven with the fiction of his imagination. Extracts from the letters of his great-great-uncle writing from Canada and the Crimea where he died at Sebastopol are run concurrently with Blighen's own tale. His imagery has a Dickensian touch: his house was afflicted by dry rot. "I wept in infinitely sudden grey coils and hanks. A building, we saw, could sob itself to death."

Yet there is evidence of the donkey braying. He paints himself too easily as a figure of fun, a silly ass. There is a self-indulgence, and self-absorption. The charm of autobiography is in the host of other people you meet besides the author. It would have been interesting to learn more about the old Labour Party, Richard Crossman and Jim Griffiths, than the account of a weekend conference on education at Clarton discloses. And why should he be so annoyingly coy about identifying the inebriated cathedral city or the new university he calls Ribchester? Such reticence makes one long for the abrasive honesty of A. J. P. Taylor.

Brian Martin



Muiredach's Cross at Monasterboice, one of the oldest and finest Celtic crosses in the British Isles. From *The Beauty of Britain*, by Edmund Spingler (Hamlyn, £5.95). Monasterboice, in the south of Louth in the Boyne valley on the borders of County Meath, is a quiet place notable for the ruins of a monastic community said to have been founded by a St Buidhe towards the end of the fifth century.

Fiction The loyalties worth dying for: innocents abroad and at sea

Brothers
By Bernice Rubens

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

The Proprietor
By Ann Schlee

(Macmillan, £8.95)

Belgravia
By Charlotte
Bingham

(Michael Joseph, £7.95)

Bernice Rubens is too sly a writer not to tempt her reader into Russia 1925 without a touch of irony. And the novel is spiky with uneasy questions throughout. The litany of survival, which runs throughout the novel, rises from sensible advice given to children

recruited for the Tsar's army before their twelfth birthday. In context, it is sound, even in rabbinic terms. The more intransigent, fustidious children, disappearing in the quicksand, point up the wisdom of the Bintel tradition: the only loyalties worth dying for are those of friendship and love. It is a litany which may not be buried, however far the Bintel travel from Odessa to Wales, the United States or Germany. Brothers are what all should be, but Jews are by no means the only group to find themselves excluded from that brotherhood.

And it is when we come to the settlement of the Bintel in Germany, that the proposition, survive, at any cost, is put to the necessary test. At whose cost, to begin with, and finally, inescapably, what can give importance to such a survival. The Nazis left no possibility of ordinary accommodation. There was no immersion in holy water, no change of name; even world service to the imperial crown was unhelpful. To survive, the crimes to be committed were so ugly that it is hard to accept the litany of survival any longer as innocent. It is Bernice Rubens's extraordinary achievement to take us beyond that anxiety into the logic of international communism and Soviet Russia, to bring the novel back to its true starting point. Those who found Ann Schlee's *Rhine Journey* at once fascinating

and exquisitely written, may be a touch disappointed in *The Proprietor*. It is a fine, and solidly written period piece set in 1840. But it is also a slow and bitter book, generating emotion chiefly from an oppressive claustrophobia, at odds with the exposed and tide-racked island which has been chosen for liberal improvement. Because the island is so remote eventually we care much less for the ruthlessly well-intentioned man who sets himself the task of renewing the island's economy than we do for the old who have lost their sons to him, and the children who have lost their brief chance of escape.

The knack of being staidish about nobility belongs (with all its attendant risks) to the English above all. Charlotte Bingham's *Belgravia* has no illusion about either its means or its debt. I enjoyed it with a noisy hilarity which betrays, I like to think, a saving vulgarity in the writer.

Elaine Feinstein

Treason's Harbour
By Patrick O'Brian

(Collins, £7.95)

There was no shortage of applicants for Horatio Hornblower's berth when C. S. Forester died in 1966. Dudley Pope's *Lord Ramage* and Alexander Kent's *Bolton* took to the high seas in fairly short order, and C. Northcote Parkinson commissioned Richard Delaney, after first stripping away the did-he-fell-or-was-he-pushed fascinations of Hornblower with a volume of blunt solutions to each of the little mysteries Forester left behind.

Pope, Kent and Parkinson are all first-class naval constructors, plotmiths to a man, adept at buckling every swash in sight. But none held Hornblower below the waterline.

Then, suddenly, Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey was hauled over the horizon and all was changed. Aubrey is overweight, only slightly heroic, has been pursued by debt collectors, has family relations more typical than ideal, is prone to extraneous witticisms, and has a seagoing medical friend who admires spy who is so less engagingly fayed. His socks smell, his clothes are gaudy, and the two of them bicker, as friends in close confinement must. Inaugures more readily, skin, presumably, to Nelson's day than any of these fictional contemporaries.

Aubrey and Dr Martin are men to believe in as they come to terms with their comfortable flaws against an exceedingly accurate Maltese backdrop. In this, the ninth Aubrey novel, more power to your yard, Mr O'Brian.

Frank Peters

Marcovaldo
By Italo Calvino

(Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

The eponymous hero of this book of stories is the Italian version of Chaplin or Schickel, an innocent who provokes comic mayhem whenever he walks abroad. Marcovaldo is an unskilled labourer who, because of his poverty, remains an outsider in the great city; he has been pushed into a corner but from here he notices, like John Davidson's clerk, "curious items" about life. He follows the cats as they make their way through their own city, and he watches the leaves yellowing in the park or mushrooms sprouting by the highway. From such things he discovers "the changes of season, the yearnings of his heart and the woes of existence".

Although he lives in a garret with his querulous wife and innumerable sickly children, even here he can lose himself staring "in his imagination the damp walls disappeared and the room was a green farm among the fields". And yet such imaginings usually go awry: the mushrooms he gathers are poisonous, the park in which he wishes to sleep is invaded by workmen, the rabbit he rescues is the carrier of a deadly disease. And although this is ostensibly the record of a simple soul, what emerges most powerfully is the presence of a harsh and corrosive society which has infected even the things he holds most dear - the neon advertisements blot out the moon, the rivers have turned red and green with pollution. But Marcovaldo always rises above his disappointments, and in the process becomes a convincing representative of humankind: unhappy often, bewildered always, but at least capable of the most wonderful dreams.

In other hands this would become the tinnest of sentimentalities, but Calvino's lucid prose gives these stories the clarity and objectivity of fables. He is best known for his more self-conscious and apparently "literary" novels, in which by parody or elaboration he creates a number of linguistic "worlds" which succeed each other like slides in a museum exhibition. But it is clear from this little volume that the source of his inspiration is not really literary at all. Marcovaldo, too, sees different worlds because he cannot endure the indignities of the one in which he is forced to dwell. Calvino has given his hero the imagination of an artist - the kind of artist Calvino himself is.

Peter Ackroyd

Founding father or sly colonial boy

Benjamin Franklin
By Ronald W. Clark

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.50)

Benjamin Franklin has never been an easy man to like. From the 1720s, when he slipped out of his indentures as a printer's apprentice to the time of the American War of Independence, when he spent his time philandering with society ladies instead of concentrating on his job as Congress's ambassador in Paris, Franklin always had his eye on the main chance. As a businessman he was the embodiment of the profit motive and he used his political position to enrich himself and his family. Yet he composed (and plagiarized) a host of pious maxims on themes like "virtue is its own reward" and "honesty is the best policy". These were, as Mark Twain said, "full of animosity towards boys" - generations of whom were made to learn the wretched things.

Ronald W. Clark does not deem Franklin as a hypocritical exponent of middle-class morality any more than he praises him as "the first civilized American". He takes a properly detached view of his subject, setting him firmly in the context of an age when utilitarian ethics were fashionable and it was frowned upon not to make money. Indeed Clark's life of Franklin is just what one would expect from such an accomplished biographer. It is a good solid study based on original sources and it is particularly strong on Franklin's scientific work.

Clark shows that, like Darwin after him, Franklin was oddly vague about the details of his research. He was a "professional amateur" who twice nearly electrocuted himself during experiments. Not that Franklin was impractical: his invention of the lightning conductor testifies to his talent for finding useful applications for his discoveries. But his genius was for synthesis of a pure sort. Hence his momentous revelation that electricity and lightning are one.

It was this which made Franklin famous by 1750 and led to his being sent to represent the colonies in Europe. His main task was to prevent Britain taxing the Americans and he was given credit (mostly undeserved) for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Needless to say his efforts to stop the drift towards war were hopeless. He was perhaps too conciliatory to be a truly effective diplomat. He loved England and (though Clark does not say so) he seems to have established another message in London. At any rate he effectively deserted his long-suffering Pennsylvania wife, whom he pro-

sumably had in mind when he coined this aphorism: "Keep your sex wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards." Franklin also cherished hopes of receiving rich pickings in the field of patronage from George III's government.

Had he done so it is possible that Franklin would not have taken the American side. As it was he corrected Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence and became the sage of Versailles. Sporting his rustic fur cap and his bifocal spectacles, Franklin was the only man at court to wear his own hair. He became all the rage, celebrated on thousands of snuff-boxes, rings, plates, even hats and coats - and even in England. His efforts to win French support for the colonists were successful though, as Clark demonstrates, British spies knew his closest secrets, partly as a result of his own carelessness.

As Balzac said, Franklin invented not only the lightning rod and the republic but the man. His liveliest writing consisted of books designed to explode contemporary cant. For instance he ridiculed the prize questions asked by learned academies by proposing the discovery of "some Drug, wholesome and not disagreeable, to be mixed with our common Food, or Sauces, that shall render the natural discharges from our Bodies not only inoffensive, but agreeable as Perfumes". His advice that young men should take old mistresses ("They are so grateful") is the most famous example of this brand of humour.

Certainly Franklin had a well-developed comic sense. He anticipated by a century Oscar Wilde's epigram that the only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it. He propounded the axiom that "God wants us to tipple, because he has made the joints of the arm just the right length to carry a glass to the mouth." Clark rightly says that Franklin's *Autobiography* is redeemed by its sly wit.

Nevertheless his prevailing tone is one of dogged Puritan didacticism. His page is always luminous but (as Johnson said of Addison) it "never blazes with unexpected splendour". Under his veneer of cosmopolitan philosopher Franklin remains New England entrepreneur, dispensing goblets of vernacular wisdom at two cents apiece. This admirable biography makes one sympathize with D. H. Lawrence's angry diatribes against the "snuff-coloured little man" who had "all the qualities of a great man" and was "never more than a great citizen".

Piers Brendon

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THE TIMES DIARY

Standstill

The Greater London Council's difficulties in mounting an exhibition at this year's Conservative conference to protest at plans for its abolition worsened yesterday. Banned by Conservative Central Office from the Blackpool Winter Gardens - for fear of vandalism by Tory thugs, GLC spokesmen suggest - the council had taken space in the adjacent shopping centre, Hounds Hill, which is owned by the Laing property group, generous contributors to Tory party funds. Yesterday Ken Livingstone's office heard that Laing had banned the GLC stand from Hounds Hill, both during the Conservative conference and the earlier TUC meeting. The GLC is now investigating the possibility of suing Laing for breach of contract - and searching for another site.

Concert deal

PHS has discovered in Edinburgh the most extraordinary artefact of Vienna 1900, the festival theme, not to be exhibited there. It is an art nouveau set of playing cards designed by the composer Arnold Schoenberg for use with his friends. The pack comes complete with an imaginary dialogue devised by Schoenberg between Napoleon and one of his aides in which they debate how the emperor can win at patience. The composer's daughter, Nina Schoenberg-Nono, says the cards demonstrate the remarkable craftsmanship her father applied to everything he did. Efforts are now being made to rush a few packs into concert-hall bookshops for music lovers to use while queuing.

● A man stabbed by his wife when he returned home from a drinking bout told Inner London Crown Court last week: "I now have a great deal of respect for my wife, which I did not have previously".

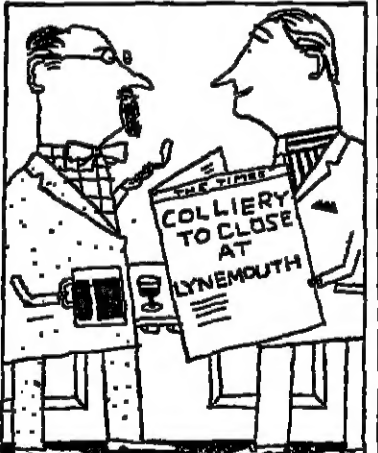
Gulpers

One of the English wines for which an exceptional vintage is predicted this year is called Dower. This less than encouraging name derives, I suppose, from the fact that it comes from the Sussex Downs and, at £3.45 to £3.85 a bottle, should not leave you on your uppers. It could be worse. The lane in which the vineyard is situated is called Clappers.

Bedtime story

How hot are you in bed? A survey carried out for a firm who make electric blankets has revealed that only three couples in a hundred are completely compatible about the amount of bedding they require. The cold person, they say, is usually the female, for whom compromise entails wrapping up with extra rugs, bed socks and such. I regret to confirm that this is the case with Mrs PHS.

BARRY FANTONI



'They could always sell the name to a cheese manufacturer'

Shell guide

Potted geraniums and mint are effective fly deterrents, and marigolds absorb cooking smells, says *The Country Housewife*, published today by Hodder and Stoughton. That's fine, but I am more sceptical about the old-fashioned consumption of 20 snails and a handful of daisies in water and take a spoonful with milk daily.

Hot under collar

I have been taken to task for my less than positive attitude towards negative ions and the gadgets that generate them. A spokesman for a firm that makes ionizers points out that they are offered to sufferers from respiratory complaints for a trial period on a money-back basis; letters from readers plagued with bronchitis and hay fever have claimed that an ionizer made a difference; and several colleagues with asthmatic children have seen a striking improvement in the frequency and severity of attacks. Nicholas Blacklock of the D'Aragnan restaurant swears his ionizer helps keep customers and waiters from getting sloppy. I have installed the original ionizer in my bedroom in the hope that it might do the same for me.

The bassoon section of the Concertgebouw Orchestra, arriving in Edinburgh yesterday, immediately sought to arrange a visit to a local octogenarian for whom they acknowledged as the world authority on their instrument. Lindsay Langwill, now 86 and in failing health, is author of a catalogue of bassoons. "He is to the bassoon what Koechel is to Mozart," the bassoonists said reverently. Alas, it is not certain Langwill will be fit enough to receive them.

PHS

Reagan's right - and duty

Engene Rostow, until last January chief US disarmament negotiator, draws a distinction between support for the government of El Salvador and Cuban backing for the guerrillas

Cuba and Nicaragua hint that they would be willing to stop sending men and arms to promote the rebellion in El Salvador if the United States agreed not to help the Salvadoran government put the rebellion down. The agreement they propose would abolish the distinction between aggression and self-defence in international law and treat both as politically and morally equivalent.

For the US to embrace that proposition should be unthinkable. With remarkable consistency, the modern rules of international law have been applied to hold a state liable for any use of force from its territory to attack the territorial integrity, political freedom, citizens, armed forces or other sovereign interests of another state.

The rules recognize the inherent right of "individual and collective self-defence" in peacetime - that is, the right of a state being attacked, and of states helping it, to use a limited, proportional amount of armed force if peaceful remedies are not available.

The pattern of response to the illegal use of force has not always been effective, and in recent years it has become alarmingly ineffective. But the expectations and prescriptions of the law have long been clear in the rulings of courts and arbitrators and in the conditioned reflexes of foreign offices and defence ministries.

Thus, during Biafra's attempted secession from Nigeria, the world community treated aid to Biafra as obviously illegal, while international military support for Nigeria was accepted as obviously proper. Similarly, Libya's assistance to rebels against the

government of Chad is universally considered aggression, whereas French and US help to the government of Chad is considered normal.

These rules of international law, reaffirmed in the United Nations Charter, reflect the nature of states, and conditions necessary for their cooperation in the hazardous environment of the state system. Many international commissions have attempted to establish exceptions to the rules in order to legitimize international use of force on behalf of causes to which particular states are attached - notably, "socialism", "national liberation" and "self-determination". These efforts have failed because no state will support a rule that might be invoked to restrict its right of collective self-defence or to justify a guerrilla attack from a neighbour's territory against itself.

One great advantage of basing US foreign policy explicitly on international law is the neutrality of the law. The rules of law on the international use of force rest on a policy of preserving the state system, in which every state has an equal and overwhelming

interest. International law does not protect the "status quo", it establishes procedures for encouraging peaceful change. It says nothing about the right of a people to revolt against tyranny. It deals only with the international use of force, and it protects Poland and East Germany as categorically as it protects El Salvador and South Korea.

Apart from the various applications of the Brezhnev Doctrine, before which the West has stood mute, there has been only one deviation from the pattern of conduct sketched by these rules in modern times: the "non-intervention" policy that assured destruction of the Spanish Republic. The leaders of Cuba and Nicaragua take a leaf from the book of Hitler and Mussolini: during the mid-1930s, Hitler and Mussolini sent military supplies and then troops to assist Franco. This was open aggression against Spain. Other western nations were legally entitled to help Spain defend itself against the revolution but did not, hoping to appease Hitler and Mussolini.

The US must not consider repeating the mistake it made by supporting the "non-intervention" policy for Spain. It should never again abandon the rules of international law that condemn aggression and uphold states' right of individual and collective self-defence. The most fundamental goal of US foreign policy - achievement of a just, stable world order - will be beyond reach until the rules on the international use of force are generally and reciprocally observed.

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On a day of Polish protest, the same old refusal to listen

When will Jaruzelski heed the lesson of Gdansk?

Warsaw It was quite like old times in Gdansk. Briefly the clanging and the clattering of metal-pressing at the Lenin shipyards gave way last week to the hissing and whistling of truculent workers, angered at a minister's anti-Solidarity tirade. Looking flushed and uncomfortable, the Deputy Premier, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, launched his harangue in the very hall where three years ago yesterday the Gdansk agreement signed Solidarity into existence. "Swagging... irresponsible... anarchic... confrontational" - there was no doubt where Mr Rakowski, erstwhile negotiator with Lech Walesa, now stands on the banned trade union. The workers, some of them anyway, made catcalls, shouted and heckled; Mr Rakowski pushed on regardless. Later Mr Walesa, now a humble electrician in the yard, stood up to defend the union and was raucously applauded.

The meeting was a light breeze after months of heavy thundering by General Jaruzelski's government about its concern for the workers' leaden monologues about dialogue. The government tactic is clear enough. It wants to show that it is capable of talking directly to workers without the mediation of Solidarity and that occasionally it is prepared to talk with people who do not nod in respectful agreement. Since the lifting of martial law the atmosphere has been (as Huxley once said of T. S. Eliot's criticism) like "a great operation never performed. Powerful lights are brought into focus, anaesthetists and assistants are posted, the instruments are prepared. Finally the surgeon arrives and opens his bag - but closes it again and goes off".

The government understanding of dialogue seems to be that the authorities make decisions and then explain the decisions to the workers, as possible through credible organizations. The Solidarity understanding of dialogue is that the workers sit down at the same table as the authorities and jointly shape a policy acceptable to the nation. Each version is unacceptable to the other side. The government says that



Mieczyslaw Rakowski: catcalls and heckling as he addressed the Gdansk shipworkers

Solidarity's idea of dialogue in effect means the first step to taking over power. Solidarity maintains that dialogue as "consultation" is the death knell of an independent union movement guaranteed by the government when it signed the Gdansk agreement in August 1980. This unbridgeable gap has produced a crisis in the thinking and operation of the Solidarity underground. Under severe pressure from the authorities, its leadership has made a number of important tactical errors - including the unrealistic call for a general strike and, more recently, an industrial go-slow - which were based on the misapprehension that it was possible somehow to force the government into talks.

By concentrating on swift, dramatic protest - above all demonstrations - it has had to rely to a large degree on students, disaffected professionals and even adventurous sixth formers rather than on workers. Solidarity cells in factories have shrivelled - apart from the large ones in Gdansk and Nowa Huta - and underground factory coordinating committees have frequently been penetrated by the security services. Solidarity is still respected by the workers but there is a realistic assessment of the

substantial risk involved in return for a minimal gain.

In yesterday's protests marking the anniversary of the agreement, workers boycotted public transport and thousands attended mass. But it is clear that protests will not reform the government and will not, except for a small minority of young people, radicalize the population. Critics within Solidarity say that the Gdansk anniversary should be the occasion for a major overhaul of strategy, workers should again become the main object of the organization and that Solidarity supporters should build up cells in the factories even if they confine themselves, in the first instance, to collecting money for political prisoners and printing simple but reliable information bulletins.

The Solidarity strategists believe now that they must extol the virtues of patience. One of the first incidents of industrial discontent since the lifting of martial law - a work stoppage at the FSO car factory over holiday pay - clearly showed that the new government-sponsored trade unions are not carrying out even their basic functions effectively, are not even acting as a transmission belt of information from managers to workers. Influential voices in the underground thus

say: wait for the sham unions to collapse, then worker discontent will again mount and Solidarity should be prepared for this.

Whether the Solidarity planners are living in any more of a dream world than the government remains to be seen. Certainly the government is behaving as if Solidarity is dead (it formally banned in October 1982) and deducing from this that there is no worker discontent in the country. As long as it talks only to the pro-government trade unions and "patriotic associations" of communists and sympathetic non-communists, then it will continue to believe that it is on the right course. That is a direct route to a new popular explosion of unrest: banning an organization that expresses grievances honestly and openly does not remove those grievances.

The Gdansk agreement was the result of more than a month of strikes and years of discontent over housing, health, wages, work safety, pensions and the privileges of the party leadership. Perhaps it has one lasting message to both the government and the clandestine Solidarity resistance: talk to the workers, and above all listen to them.

Roger Boyes

Telecom battle: lining up for round two

The Government's determination to cut back the size and influence of state industries is seen by many public sector unions as the biggest threat they are likely to face in the next five years. The first big test of strength between the two sides has arisen through the campaign being waged against the sell-off of British Telecom.

Six unions combined, at a cost of £500,000, to fight the first Telecommunications Bill and the Commons debate on the measure ran out of time when Mrs Thatcher called the general election, and now the unions are resisting the second Bill. But this time a new element has entered the contest.

The biggest union, the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU), is waging a guerrilla campaign aimed at blocking the action of the new private enterprise Mercury network to British Telecom circuits and cabling. That the union's action could come close to breaching employment legislation has not gone unnoticed in Whitehall or by employers.

Extra bite has been given to the POEU campaign since the union's executive swung to the left in June. One of the new leadership's first acts was to ensure that the conference policy of industrial action against Mercury was implemented. The main targets of the action have been operations of the three principal shareholders in Mercury - Barclays Bank, Cable and Wireless and British Petroleum. So far the action has had little impact, but its

significance may soon be felt in other areas. It is difficult to see how sanctions against those three companies can carry protection from civil action under the terms of recent labour legislation.

The companies are caught up in what senior BT management has already described as "politically motivated" action. The general manager of the state corporation's City of London area recently wrote to all staff warning that the POEU action would not force Mrs Thatcher to change her mind, and would only make the Government more determined.

Union officials are reluctant to discuss the legal advice they have received on the action, saying only that no one has told them it is illegal and that "until the union receives advice to the contrary, it is not aware that it is acting illegally". They also stoutly defend their right to oppose privatization, claiming that while the Government has a big majority, all the other parties, which together received more votes than the Tories in the election, were opposed to privatization. "It is not political for us to carry through what the union executive is elected for, to defend our members' jobs and their interests," one official said.

Managers have so far been able to connect BT equipment and the fledgling Mercury network, whose object is to win a lucrative business market, although it is restricted to an annual turnover equivalent to only 3 per cent of BT's business. The union is seeking support from

unions representing employees of British Rail and local authorities whose cooperation Mercury will need to lay cables linking the main cities and large towns. Once those cables are in place, the unions fear that connections with BT circuits will become permanent, enabling BT to "cream off" easy profits.

Indeed, telephone engineers in the City, who professed to be typical of the majority of a POEU membership that is reluctant to take industrial action, made it clear in telephone conversations with *The Times* that the prospect of Mercury riding on BT's back to win the corporation's most profitable business has united members of all political persuasions. These engineers had no objection in 1981 to the principle of privatization or the breaking of the telecommunications monopoly, but they contended that competition must be fair. They also said they were not happy that Mercury was offering salaries about £1,000 a year above BT levels, with two-year contracts and a company car.

Political opposition by the union to privatization is likely to be one of the main issues at next week's TUC Congress in Blackpool, when it will be argued that denationalization would lead to job losses. The worst estimate of the effect on BT is that 100,000 of the corporation's 240,000 jobs would disappear. It is also held that services would deteriorate with the introduction of private capital seeking a substantial return on investment.

The six BT unions believe a substantial body of opinion among Tory MPs and peers is worried about the impact of privatization on the loss-making services in country areas, and that this concern can be mobilized against the Bill during the Commons stages, which start in October.

The Government's clear intention not to be diverted from denationalizing BT leads some union officials privately to rate their chances of success as low, but they point to the climb-down by the Government on the sale of gas showrooms as evidence that minds can be changed. However, with a flotation of 51 per cent of BT likely to raise about £4,000m, the six telecommunications unions realize that once again they will have to dig deep in their coffers to finance the present campaign.

There will possibly be further industrial action against the Bill as it goes through Parliament, but irrespective of the wider issues, the POEU maintains that its "blacklisting" of Mercury will continue and that it will never cooperate with the private network.

A £1-a-week levy of all POEU members is expected to raise more than £1m by October as a fund to enable members on strike to take home their normal pay. The guerrilla tactics of pulling out on strike small key groups is likely to continue, but the real test will come if the law is invoked against the union.

David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Simon Jenkins

Paying the price of rural ruin

I always loved cities and found the countryside dull. I suppose it was sheer exhilaration. Britain's cities seemed the cockpits in which the continuity and change fought for the soul of British politics. As for their architecture, continuity has mercifully emerged (the partial) victor. Bath and Chester, Edinburgh and York, Belgrave and Covent Garden are its battle honours, together with thousands of streets and districts protected from insensitive development. This, I assumed, should take precedence over the quiet round of country seasons.

Yet now that the fight for adequate laws on urban conservation is won, how should the townsman react to the sudden upheaval in the politics of the countryside? What can the urban conservationist say to his embattled rural counterpart?

The first thing must be, may heaven lend strength to your arm. After a summer of extended trips through the English and Scottish countryside - my first for a decade - I returned as appalled as other recent *Times* correspondents at what modern agriculture is doing to the landscape. From Cornwall through the Midlands and East Angles to the Pennines and the Lowlands and Highlands of Scotland, a blight seems to be descending, grimly similar to that which afflicted British cities in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is a blight caused by insensitivity, subsidy and inappropriate scales. A hillside which I once knew to have four fields, divided by hedgerows and lines of trees, is now bulldozed to make one. Earth-moving equipment of a sort once confined to open-cast mining and motorway building is now used to wipe from the map footpaths, hedges, trees, copses, cottages, yards, streams. Buildings are erected of startling ugliness. Agriculture, which could once boast an extraordinary public affection, now presents itself to the world as philistine, rich and yet greedy for public funds (not least on the BBC's self-pleading *Farming Today*).

Perhaps most drastic of all has been the transformation wrought by forestry. Serried rows of conifers, laid out with no more sensitivity to landscape than a pipeline in the desert, dart across fells and dales. Parts of the Scottish Highlands look as if pattern bombed with spruces by a maniacal Forestry Commission. Moorland ends and trees begin according to no law of nature or respect for contour, apparently governed only by a ruler and set-square on a map. The concept of a tree-line, once so evocative to the hill walker, has vanished.

In the Highlands, the journey from Rannoch Moor to Glencoe, across one of the great romantic wildernesses of Britain, is now flanked by a hillside poised with incipient afforestation, trees planted as if this were a garden nursery. This is not true woodland, a replacement of the noble forests cut down in the industrial revolution. Time and again I found myself wondering, does Britain have no sensitive foresters - as once we wondered if there were no good British architects?

British agriculture is now a heavy industry, and like most heavy industry, is utterly entangled in government subsidy. The catalogue of grants available for agriculture

and forestry are already familiar to readers of *The Times* letter pages. Their sustained allocation to purposes such as hedgerow destruction and afforestation has so distorted the economics of the industry as to make irrelevant any appeal by either side to the "free market". We do not know what a free market in agriculture would look like. It is insensible capitalism which is plaguing the uplands with conifers, it is Treasury-approved tax schemes. It is not the free market which smashes a medieval barn one day and tears up a row of ancient oaks the next, it is ministry and Common Market grants.

The irony for the conservationist is that we have seen this all before. The argument of the farming lobby today for "laissez faire plus subsidy" is precisely that of the urban landowner (including public authorities) for unfettered development rights in the 1930s and 1940s. Indeed, when desperate efforts were made between the wars to save important historic buildings from demolition, developers demanded (and for a while obtained) compensation for loss of value. This compensation was a devastating constraint. Had it not been ended after the last war - and had the concept of protection without compensation not been extended by Duncan Sandys to conservation areas - the face of English towns today would be wholly different. It is doubtful if any of the buildings of Georgian London would have survived.

As now with the countryside, in the 1950s and '60s much of the urban battle was against, not for, public subsidy; the mindless clearance of good terraced housing in favour of council tower blocks; housing grants which discriminated against conservation in favour of new buildings; local authorities whose extravagance was matched pound for pound by Whitehall. Shortcomings there may still be, but Britain now has building conservation laws which are the envy of the world.

Some of our national parks, even some of our forests (under a now more sensitive Forestry Commission) prove what constructive rural conservation might yet achieve, but elsewhere, subsidized destruction is the order of the day. Countryside planning still lacks the clout of laws to enforce environmental protection without compensation.

Last year's legislation on sites of special scientific interest, granting compensation to any landowner who even threatens environmental destruction, is a carbon copy of a 1932 planning act on historic buildings. It was passed by a farmer-dominated cabinet - rather like giving a group of landlords free rein with the Rent Act. It is half a century since we thought of paying the Duke of Westminster annual "rent" for not demolishing Belgrave Square.

One day, I am sure, our children will castigate us for allowing the bulldozer and the accountant to undermine sovereignty over the countryside, as now we deplore the post-war urban clearances. There is, however, something we can do. Mr Nigel Lawson might at least stop using our money to fund this destruction.

The author is political editor of *The Economist*.

Peter Black

Riding away in my convertible asset

We have been riding about the neighbourhood incognito during recent weeks. I sold the blue Beetle convertible by which folks had learned to recognize us. They do not yet automatically associate us with the new car. The sale said something of great interest about the motor

is fundamental, however frustrated by prudence. Convertibles console the attractive side of human character that gets a hard time, the part that never grows up, never stops expecting something marvelous to happen, is never reconciled to routine and conformity.

I built up quite a collection of notes stuck under the windscreen wipers. "If you ever want to sell, please phone..." Once a beautiful woman carrying a baby in her arms ran to me as I was buying petrol. "Would you do something for me?" she cried. "Anything," I replied. "Can I give you my husband's car?" He's doted about Beetles.

I took the car to the Continent several times, in fact, and it, and ourselves by reflection, attracted envy and admiration. It was amazingly reliable. The time between the turning of the ignition key and the firing of the engine could be measured only by comparing it with the interval between the accidental shutting of the door on the tail of a cat and the angry outburst of that same cat.

After 10 years it had covered 44,000 miles. Then the Silkshifter gear began to give an uncertain sound. It is a good, dull rule to sell an old car once it begins to make noises. I telephoned the number the young mother had given me. "What a pity, I've just bought one," her husband said. "How much did you want for it?" "No idea." "You'll get three and a quarter."

Thus it fell out. I made a profit of 50 per cent and could have sold it three times over. True, the 1983 was the Karman Ghia version of the Beetle. (I am not discussing sports cars, a different breed altogether.) It seemed absurd to pay £2,170 for a Beetle, but, as often happens, the apparently rash act turned out to be a brilliant commercial stroke. VW soon stopped making Beetles.

My car became a collector's piece and began to emphasize a truth about motoring. Most of us would rather have an open car, the appeal

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OUT OF TOUCH

Sombre rallying-calls issue from the leaders of the TUC as delegates to Congress prepare to meet in Blackpool next week for the first great gathering of the Labour movement since the general election. Mr Clive Jenkins has lamented "quite irremediable" changes in the social landscape, and predicted five years of trauma; Mr David Bassett has warned that the unions can no longer count on Labour as a regularly alternating party of government; and yesterday Mr Gavin Laird urged Congress not to shirk asking itself why most union members rejected Labour in the election.

A body not normally given to self-doubt, Congress would need a quite supernatural insensibility not to be afflicted by it this year. Unemployment, which has sapped the membership and influence of the unions, is expected to rise yet further; there are alarming signs that membership is now declining even faster than unemployment by itself can explain. With a fresh mandate, the Government is preparing legislation which may profoundly alter the balance of power within unions, and perhaps the financial resources of the Labour party. The forces that threaten to supplant Labour in politics seem in some ways even less sympathetic to the claims of the unions than the Tories are.

Many delegates are already concerned about all this: Mr Laird referred to the unusual phenomenon of the appearance in the agenda of draft resolutions that frankly acknowledge the

failure of the movement to induce even 40 per cent of its membership to vote for Labour and a manifesto closely reflecting the policies determined by last year's Congress, "by their own unions and in their own interests", as Mr Laird put it begging the question.

But there will be other voices raised at Blackpool next week seeking to prevent even such a limited exercise in self-examination and demanding no retreat from the orthodoxies set up in the past by processes enabling a minority to pretend to speak with the inferred voice of the majority. One last fling of resistance is likely to the newly-reformed system for elections to the General Council, which will diminish the patronage of the largest unions - patronage exercised, in recent years at least, to the advantage of the left. There will also be bitter resistance to the resumption of contacts with Mr Norman Tebbit.

There is a possibility of Congress losing itself (and the ear of the public) in ferocious procedural manoeuvres over these issues as an alternative to grappling with the problems which threaten the movement and its ability to serve its members. The healthy thrust of pragmatism, which led it in its early years to set up a political party to represent it where laws are made, also dictates the maintenance of a civilized dialogue with the government of the day, however unsympathetic - and indeed with all major political parties. It is worth both

sides' while to talk: it fosters a sense of reality in both. It is those who reject it who are out of touch with the historic spirit of the movement.

The loss of contact between leaders and led has several causes, not least the readiness of members to elect representatives who seem likely to fight effectively for their immediate interests, regardless of their broader political views. But the main cause of the alienation is the weakness of the unions' own procedures for finding out what their members really think. The injured bewilderment of many utterances by union leaders since the election shows how morally debilitating it is to be in command without an inkling that one's followers have deserted the traditional allegiance in droves.

Closed-minded adherence to orthodoxy, allied to perfunctory consultation of members, is threatening at this moment to allow the unions' block votes to saddle the Labour Party with a new generation of leaders unrepresentative of the party's natural supporters as a whole. The unions have to ask themselves urgently next week not only whether it is wise to retain their exclusive commitment to a party which may never regain power, but also whether that party and its policies really reflect the interests of the membership any longer. The movement's leadership has lost its vitality because it has lost touch; and vitality will not be recovered unless that contact can be restored.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY OF ROME

Pope John Paul II is not the first pontiff to find the Jesuits difficult to handle. His attempts to control them, though well short of the radical solution of Pope Clement XIV, have generated a sense of crisis in the order to which its General Congregation, opening today in Rome, will have to find a remedy.

As in 1773, the year Clement suppressed them, secular politics have more to do with the crisis than theology. The present Pope appears to be alarmed by the political tinge which some activities of the Society of Jesus sometimes take on, particularly in Central and South America. The tinge may look redder in Rome than it really is, but there is no doubt the society has put its shoulder behind the amelioration of the lot of the masses through social and economic reform, which brings it into collision with powerful vested interests. It would be a mistake to assume, however, that the Pope is merely acting on behalf of those conservative forces, or that he is seeking to apply to the Jesuits some arbitrary and dualistic distinction between the spiritual and material needs of those they minister to, so as to confine them to the former. There is a theological issue behind the crisis, but it is not that one.

The Society of Jesus was the Roman Catholic Church's most dramatic and effective response to the Reformation. Its spirituality cultivated the absolute dedication of mind, body, and soul to God and the church, producing a new breed of priests who would live very much in the world and if necessary die for their faith, as many of them did (not least in England). This high octave and potentially explosive force had to be integrated into

the church's hierarchical structure, which was achieved, by characteristic absoluteness, by means of a personal vow of obedience to the pope. Consequently any difficulties in the society are the pope's responsibility in a special way, beyond his normal oversight of the major international religious orders. It is through him, in principle, that the Jesuits are rescued from the dangerous tendency to constitute a "church within the church".

In the Counter-Reformation church, and particularly its eventual form the ultramontane church, this pattern was comfortably in line with the current theology of the papacy. If the pope was universal ruler of the church, and the bishops little more than his deputies on the spot, the direct line between the Jesuits and Rome was one of many. But things have changed, and it is ironic that Jesuit theologians were among the influences which changed them.

The post-conciliar church has an extra dimension, as a federation of local and regional churches united in communion with one another and with the church at Rome. Bishops were restored to their apostolic dignity by the Second Vatican Council, and all over the world wish to be masters in their own households. They can command the obedience of their own clergy, but what of the Society of Jesus, and what happens when the bishops, acting as "the local church", pursue policies with different emphases from that of the local organs of the society? The Jesuits complain to the man the Jesuits are ultimately answerable to, the Pope.

He is said to have a large file on his desk of such material.

And as most local hierarchies, especially in Central America, find themselves having to pick a cautious and precarious path through the minefield of their region's political tensions, the independent activities of the local Jesuits will seem more than irritating. The bishops are liable to be more conservative, but theirs is the responsibility for bringing the church through the fire which always threatens to engulf it. The Jesuits are the light, not the main force.

The metaphor of the light cavalry dismounting has already been used before the congregation as it gathers in Rome, by the temporary administrator, Father Pittau, whom the Pope imposed after the severe illness of Father Arrupe. Of course they will dismount if ordered to, for their vow of obedience is taken very seriously. It would be a pity, however, if the process were carried too far. Crises there may be, in some parts of the world, but the state is not universal or incurable.

The Jesuits need a new relationship with the new kind of collegial and episcopal authority that is developing in the Roman Catholic Church, perhaps through some formal relationship with, even membership of, local episcopal conferences. This runs a risk of inhibiting their creative energies, but it would also give them influence and a context in which to argue their ideas. How such an arrangement could be harmonized with Jesuit centralism would be a challenge to their renowned adaptability. But in adapting, the General Congregation will not want to lose the essential purpose and ethos of the society. If it remains the cavalry in being, popes may find urgent work for it again.

county council was wrong to make its intentions to create YTS places known through the Careers Service to young people before the local area board had approved them. The county council was not to know that the trade unions' stubborn insistence on the rate for the job would have the effect of sabotaging an important contribution towards youth training, which, incidentally, would have given a large number of school leavers a better hope of future employment.

Mr Lewis says politics should be kept out of jobs for school leavers. Would he include the politics of the unions who have killed this scheme, which clearly he shares? Yours faithfully, R. H. B. NEAME, Leader, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

Body and mind

From Mr Peter Davies
Sir, Dr J. W. Panley (August 24) refers to lack of appreciation of psychosomatic factors in illness by practitioners in the NHS implying, as do many practitioners of alternative medicine, that most diseases are due to the influence of the mind on the body. While the mind necessarily influences the body it is also true that the body has a great influence on the mind.

There are numbers of patients with fasciitis gangrene of the legs due to blocked arteries, a state inevitably leading to loss of the limb either by natural processes or surgical amputation. These patients may have nice and are in pain; their mental state is poor; they are

unhappy, inattentive and indecisive. Removing the block by angioplasty under local anaesthesia restores the blood flow immediately and relieves the pain; others that have been present for months heal within weeks and the patient becomes happy, alert and active within days.

I am uncertain whether the technique of angioplasty is a product of convergent or divergent thinking, but it was certainly due to detailed consideration of one problem in all its aspects. It is a good example of the physical solution of a somatic problem producing an effect on the mind and indeed on the whole patient which is even more dramatic than the effect on the diseased leg. I think that even so-called alternative medicine is dealing with the results of stress and strain of everyday life in people who have unhealthy lifestyles rather than dealing with distinct identifiable pathological processes. Such processes, by the time they are manifest in clinical symptoms, have produced severe changes which require physical reversal if the patient's suffering is to be relieved.

The cost of dealing with the first group of people is open-ended, while in the second group cost benefit arguments can be applied in order to make rational decisions.

There are many situations in which care of a diseased body produces a salutary effect in the mind. *Orandum est ut sit mens sana in corpore sano.*

Yours faithfully, PETER DAVIES, Consultant Radiologist, Department of Radiology, City Hospital, Nottingham.

Export-led boom not so simple

From Mr Bernard M. Dembo

Sir, Having spent many years selling British engineering overseas, I am not at all surprised by the continued fall in exports, only that anything else should be expected, even by political optimists.

To sell, it is necessary to be competitive on specification, quality, delivery and price. All of these are a function of volume of production. If you are doing well and fully covering your overheads at home, you can export profitably at a low marginal price. If you and everyone else is short of money and interest rates are high, then both you and your suppliers will have run down stocks of raw materials and parts, so that even if you have little work on hand you cannot offer a quick delivery.

To cut costs you have probably rationalised your product line, which means that you can less often meet a precise specification than your competitors or have to offer a less carefully tailored and hence less economic model. These problems affect morale, and hence quality.

Finally, British manufacturers can no longer finance the long-term technical selling effort needed in most parts of the world in the face of deferred purchases as well as intense competition.

To look for an export-led boom in a free economy is therefore absurd. We must either get the home economy going again first, or let real wages drift downwards towards an abysmal competitive level, or probably as an inevitable result of the latter adopt a strictly controlled economy with non-convertible currency in which export prices are heavily subsidised and bear little relation to the costs of production.

Every competent overseas salesman knows that in the battle to export, the enemies to be feared most are those at home. Yours faithfully, BERNARD DEMBO, 32 Laburnum Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, August 25.

The poverty lobby

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group

Sir, David Walker (*The Times*, August 25) refers "to the poverty campaigners" to the 1982 SSRC study on the cycle of deprivation to support his argument that "the problem of poverty in Britain is a tissue of inadequacy and even fecklessness, as well as material want" and that therefore improved benefit levels are no real answer.

I had to read the report, more carefully he would have realised that its main thrust does not support this thesis. The research revealed that "poverty in the sense of lack of necessary financial resources continues to be a major problem" (my emphasis) and the authors concluded that "the tenor of much of the explanation must be structural rather than personal and the scope and the policy implications must relate to the range of interlocking inequalities in life chances that characterize our society". They went on to make a number of "simple-hearted" recommendations for improvements in benefit levels.

Both the SSRC study and the

Islington finances

From Mr George Cunningham

Sir, The Deputy Leader of Islington Council (August 26) suggests that the new give-away local newspaper which the council intends to finance with about £100,000 of public money will have no political affiliation to the Labour Party.

The fact is that the project documents as originally accepted for assistance by the council provided for one member of the paper's editorial advisory board to be a nominee of the local Labour Party and that this feature was only removed after I had exposed it in the House of Commons and the borough solicitor had advised that it might create legal problems. The political motivation was always plain and indeed boasted about by the deputy leader himself in public. The formal link may now have been dropped but the reality will be the same.

It is true that the district auditor

Fakes at Lord's

From Mr Robin Simon

Sir, In a letter published in *The Times* on August 27 Mr E. W. Swanton made certain remarks about my assertion that some of the paintings in the MCC collection on exhibition at Lord's are forgeries. He states that the object of the MCC in exhibiting its pictures is "to present the game and its history". It has been my point all along that these fakes present a misleading and distorted impression of the history of cricket: they should be clearly recognized as historically and artistically valueless.

Mr Swanton states that in the article on this subject, published in *The Mail on Sunday* on August 21, two "eighteenth-century" pictures were illustrated "implying that the one labelled 'fake' is the one on display at Lord's". The article did not imply that the fake in question was on display at Lord's although the caption may inadvertently have given that impression. It was illustrated within a boxed-off section which specifically referred to the Colman collection as a whole.

As an opening batsman I was particularly upset that Mr Swanton should suggest, in conclusion, that I had not played "with an impeccably straight bat" and of course this remark might be thought to bear an innuendo for which Mr Swanton has no justification.

I should like to take the opportunity to repeat that I have the highest possible regard for the

Excesses of some newspapers

From Mr Laurence Cummins

Sir, If the shabbier elements of Fleet Street can exercise no self-control it is possible that the TUC will win significant support for artificial restraint upon newspapers. Long before that time is reached, I trust that provincial newspapers, particularly weeklies, will have been removed from the debate.

The ethics and standards of most journalists in the provinces are quite different from those of some of their colleagues on national newspapers. Provincial newspapers do not have to invent interviews, or butcher news until it bears no resemblance to the recollections of people involved in the incidents reported.

We are accountable to our readers in the most fundamental way - we live with them, we queue at the bank with them and we know that we cannot buy their loyalty with bingo tickets and cheap thrills.

Your obedient servant, LAURENCE CUMMINS, Editor, *Newbury Weekly News*, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire, August 30.

From Lord Briginshaw

Sir, I refer to the controversy concerning national newspapers' excesses. The chairman of the Press Council, in a BBC Radio interview on August 28, voiced proposals and factors which warrant serious consideration.

He said that the Press Council need substantial resources to carry out the responsibilities placed before them. This means they need more money.

The national press proprietors and their representative organisation, the Newspaper Publishers Association, have in many ways reacted to public disquiet at some of the alleged excesses by certain national newspapers. It appears that coercion by robust legislation means the adoption of an Ombudsman process, a reinforcement of Press Council findings and reports.

These matters might be met on a

"Breadline Britain" survey, to which Mr Walker also refers, confirm the extent to which the poor are still suffering "primary deprivation" in the sense that they cannot afford to keep warm or eat properly.

An analysis of the National Food Survey, published in the *Journal of Human Nutrition* (1978), has suggested that "low-income groups and large families tend to buy more efficiently than high-income groups and small families" despite the fact that poverty itself makes efficient buying more difficult because of lack of scope for bulk buying and travelling to cheaper stores.

A two-child family on supplementary benefit currently receive a basic £29.20 after meeting their housing costs. In 1981, the average weekly expenditure (excluding housing) of a two-child family was nearly £126 - more than double the sum on which we currently expect a poor family to live. Would Mr Walker really care to teach the "women of poor families" the art of managing on such an income?

Yours faithfully, RUTH LISTER, Director, Child Poverty Action Group, 1 Macklin Street, WC2.

has regrettably turned down my request that he should refer this expenditure to the court for a ruling on its legality. Unfortunately present law requires the auditor to feel certain in his own mind that the expenditure is illegal before he can put it to the court: it is not enough for him to entertain a doubt as to its legality.

The fact is that much of our law on local government expenditure assumes a high degree of responsibility and self-restraint and that this assumption is no longer valid for many Labour councils.

Unless something is done it is only a matter of time before every Labour council authority disaffected with its local commercial newspaper uses ratepayers' money to set up a free rival paper more to its liking.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE CUNNINGHAM, (Former SDP MP for Islington South and Finsbury), 28 Manor Gardens, Hampton, Middlesex.

devoted work of the present curator, Mr Stephen Green, and his assistant and to state that I extend this respect to the remarkable work of his predecessor, Miss Rait-Kerr. I am glad that Mr Swanton saw fit to quote the heartfelt acknowledgment made in this regard by my co-author and myself in the preface to our book, *The Art of Cricket*.

I may add that immediately before the publication of the *Mail on Sunday* article I wrote to Mr Green, the curator, explaining the position and offering to help in any way that I could.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN SIMON, 25 Gordon Road, Ealing, W5.

Colourless cricket

From Mr John Hastings-Bass

Sir, Mr Palmer's letter (August 16) laments the disappearance of the cricket cap.

I am pleased to report that colour and gaiety remain a feature of cricket in China at least. The Peking Cricket Club was founded (or perhaps re-founded) last August when an England team played an Australian team for the Tianjin Cup.

Our cap is less traditional. We sport blue Mao caps overprinted with an emblem showing the Great Wall.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HASTINGS-BASS, Jardine, Matheson & Co Ltd, Suite 5035, Peking Hotel, East Chang An Avenue, Peking, The People's Republic of China.

Unravelling the state sector

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, Your Financial Correspondent's charge against me, made indirectly, of "indecisiveness" on privatisation issues (August 25) is a peculiar one.

As the minister responsible for initiating the denationalisation of The Radiochemical Company (Amersham), and BNOC (Britoil), as someone who urged the flotation of a separate new company for BGC's oil interests from the earliest days, and as the minister who saw through the selling of the National Freight Consortium to its employees, the flotation of Associated British Ports and the sale by British Rail of its hotels, I find it very odd now to be accused of indecision, even in roundabout language, by Mr Davis.

Mr Davis should not mistake prudent discussion and preparation for indecision. In fact we made a brisk start in 1979, bearing in mind that there was no worked-out Conservative policy to hand for the disposal of BNOC, that we were in the middle of a huge international oil crisis, and that, as your correspondent at least recognises, these big projects are bound to take two or three years to carry right through.

What is not so good, I agree, is the slow pace of the wider denationalisation programme, its patchy presentation and the way in which it is too often diverted into silly and unnecessary dog-fights.

There is a great deal more to be done to free and unravel the old centralised state sector of the British economy, and I do hope that the momentum built up in some areas from 1979 onwards is not going to be allowed to slacken.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOWELL, House of Commons, August 26.

CAP expenditure

From Mr K. D. Collins, MEP for Strathclyde East (Socialist Labour)

Sir, It was with some dismay that I read (report, August 26) that Sir Richard Butler, the National Farmers' Union, believed that the burden of controlling CAP expenditure "must be shared equitably by all sectors, including consumers, food processors and third country suppliers." Sir Richard may care to note that the reason for the European Community being almost bankrupt is the open-ended commitment to support farm prices, no matter the level of surplus produced and no matter the expense of storing it.

While no one is arguing that we should deliberately farm for a deficiency of food, the Community has given in to the farm lobby for far too long and it is the consumers, be they old or young, rich or poor, who have had to pay the price. Now Sir Richard appears to be telling us that these same consumers, having maintained the farmers for so long, should also now help to bail them out. This is entirely unjust.

What is needed is a reduction in support prices in the first place, together with a limitation on the amount of production which can be underwritten by the Community. Anything less than that will simply continue past profligacy.

Yours sincerely, KEN COLLINS (Chairman, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, European Parliament), 11 Stuarton Park, East Kilbride, Strathclyde, August 29.

Today it would be asking £10,000 a head just to stop the place falling down. Your photograph, taken from a private house, gives a view no one else ever sees: it presents a dour and dark face to the beauty of the Downs.

Bristol is full of derelict buildings: there is, for example a large hotel slap opposite the Council House, a few feet from the cathedral, that has been quietly falling down without being "saved" for many years. Adjoining it is a huge warehouse, likewise neglected. If the community wants such buildings saved for ever, it should have to provide the resources.

Yours faithfully, JOHN TICHEHURST, The Manse, Franklin Avenue, Braintree, North Devon.

imprisonment which, on confirmation, was reduced to an ignominious discharge.

I believe this was the last trial in England of a man charged with cowardice.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP NIMAN, Kinneret, 11 Green Lane, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, August 23.

To the point

From Mr Simon A. May

Sir, On the matter of public literacy ("Missing the point") readers, to whom the hyphen is a sealed book, claim an insight into the customer's state of mind when they acknowledge settlement of a debt: "Paid with thanks". How can they possibly know?

To give enlightenment and at the same time to keep it chatty, I have begun to send my remittances "Paid with regret".

Yours faithfully, SIMON A. MAY, The Dial House, 2 Church Hill Drive, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, August 25.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the Westminster Abbey Trust, will preside at a trustees' meeting in Westminster Abbey on October 27.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the National Playing Fields Association, will present the president's certificates at Buckingham Palace on November 1 and as honorary fellow of the Plastics and Rubber Institute, will present the fourth Prince Philip Award.

Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association, will launch the "Round England Run" at the Holiday Inn on October 28.

In aid of the British Amateur Athletic Board and the British Olympic Appeal, at Grosvenor House on September 13.

Lady Vestey gave birth to a son on August 27 in Oxford.

A memorial service for the Hon Bernard Bruce will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, October 13, 1983 at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. A. R. Bradenell and Miss E. V. L. Hicks
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, second son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bradenell, of Dulwich, and Edwina, elder daughter of Mr David and Lady Pamela Hicks, of The Grove, Brighton, Sussex.

Mr J. L. V. Lowry-Corry and Miss E. J. Lodge
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. L. V. Lowry-Corry, of Edwinstowe, Hall, Bedford, Suffolk, and Judith, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F. A. Lodge, of Overcree, Foxhill, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Dr S. A. Madgwick and Dr J. M. Carroll
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr F. A. Madgwick, of Nune, South Africa, and Mrs R. B. Putter, of Lymington, and Julia, daughter of the late Sir John Carroll, KBE, and of Lady Carroll, of Marryat Road, Wimbledon.

Mr C. W. Bessford Hartwell, RN and Miss D. C. Aungier
The marriage has been arranged between Christopher William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. M. Bessford Hartwell, of Wallington, Surrey, and Dawn Cathryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. F. Aungier, of Wallington, Surrey, and will take place at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Reddington, at 2 pm on Saturday, September 3.

Mr N. P. M. Bingham and Miss J. J. Macleude
The engagement is announced between Neil Peter, youngest son of the late Mr J. S. M. Bingham and of Mrs Nancy Bingham, of Inverness, and Jennifer, only daughter of the late Mr J. J. Macleude and Mrs Joan Dillie, of Hurley, Berkshire.

Mr J. M. Cole and Miss J. R. Dawson
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Cole, of Merstham, Surrey, and Jill Rowena, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. L. Dawson, of Coulsdon, Surrey.

Mr J. C. Cone and Miss A. L. Young
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Dr C. R. Cone, of Whitby, and of Mrs Cone, of Applethwaite, Keswick, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. Young, of Falcon Cottage, South Warrborough, Hampshire.

Mr S. C. M. Davis and Miss M. A. S. Boyd
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Dr and Mrs L. M. Davis, of Keston, Lincolnshire, and Maureen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. E. Boyd, of Rhu, Dumfriesshire.

Mr H. A. Douglas-Pennant and Miss S. R. Curry
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs R. A. Douglas-Pennant, of Aston Tirrold, Didcot, Oxfordshire, and Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Gurney, DSO, MC, and of Mrs J. E. Gurney, of Taconeston Hall, Norwich, Norfolk.

Mr M. F. G. Drummond-Brady and Miss S. H. Fair
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Major and Mrs M. J. Drummond-Brady, of North Elm House, Hove, Sussex, and Susan, daughter of Mr J. N. Fair, of Pantyfen, Llanfihangel-ar-arth, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed, and Mrs L. J. Fair.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):
Angel, Mr Cecil, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, textile merchant, £244,665
Broadley, Mr Frank, of Whitefield, Dover, Kent, £255,379

Science report

Gene-splicing in a US potato field

Genetically engineered bacteria may be released into the environment soon for the first time in a controlled experiment outside the laboratory.

In the next few weeks, scientists plan to spray young plants in a northern California potato field with bacteria modified by gene-splicing. The aim is to help to protect the potato plants against injury by frost, the cause of millions of dollars of damage to corn, soybeans, wheat, citrus fruits and potato crops each year in the United States.

Because they will be the first deliberate releases, the planned experiments, at Tulare field station, California, have again focused attention on possible risks as well as benefits of genetic engineering. Many uses are being developed for agriculture, mining and other industries, and most will require the release of the organisms into the environment.

For years, federal guidelines governing the safety of gene-splicing research prohibited release of genetically engineered living things into the environment, but it has also been clear that it must eventually be allowed. The guidelines have been modified to permit such releases, provided the specific experiments are approved as safe

by the national institutes of health.

Three exemptions have been granted on the recommendation of the institute's recombinant DNA advisory committee. One was a proposal from Stanford University involving genetic modifications to improve corn plants. Another, from Cornell, involved attempts to improve tomato and tobacco plants. The third proposal, the use of genetically engineered bacteria to reduce frost damage, is expected to be the first actually accomplished.

Gene-splicing, or recombinant DNA technology, involves genetic changes made by cutting and splicing, recombining, segments of DNA, which is the genes' active chemical. Its twisted strands contain the blueprints of genetic information of living things.

The research on frost damage prevention stems from the discovery a decade ago that certain bacteria produce nuclei form ice crystal formation and therefore help to produce frost damage when temperatures drop just below the freezing point of water.

Dr Steven E. Lindow of the University of California at Berkeley, leader of the research, notes that plants free

from such bacteria can tolerate temperatures as low as about 21°C, but are likely to suffer frost damage below 29°C if the bacteria are present. Dr Lindow discovered that when the same bacteria lacked the gene that is the key to ice nucleation, they did not produce frost damage.

Cynthia Orser, also of Berkeley, found the DNA segment, within the bacterial genes, that was the key to producing the frost damage. With an enzyme called a restriction endonuclease, she snipped out a portion of this bacterial DNA and used another enzyme, called a ligase, to rejoin the cut ends.

Only a small segment of DNA involving one out of bacterium's 3,000 genes, was cut and spliced, but it was enough to halt the formation of ice nuclei.

If such altered bacteria proved successful in controlling frost injury, Dr Lindow said at a Senate subcommittee hearing in June, many millions of dollars of lost productivity due to frost damage may be spared, millions of dollars in frost protection costs saved, and new options in plant varieties and agronomic procedures opened up due to a lowering of the frost risk to the police. Then, when he gets to know you a bit, he may face his

Ross-shire, chartered accountant, £270,986

Lassam, Mr Rex Goodson, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, £227,633

Lewis, Sir Anthony Carey, of Haslemere, Surrey, musician, £66,260

Shibuka, Mr Herbert Walter, of Llandaff, Cardiff, £258,783

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, aged 43, who takes over today as Scotland Yard's director of information, is one of the new-style officers coming to the top in British police forces.

That was jargon for young men destined for rapid promotion by virtue of their academic prowess rather than years of service. The antipathy dates back to the recruiting of an officer-cadre elite by Lord Trenchard when he was commissioner in the 1930s.



The doll's hairstyle which helped to date the tomb

Exhibition centres on ivory doll

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A tiny Roman doll, made of ivory, is the centrepiece of an archaeological exhibition of unusual charm on Rome's Capitol hill.

The exhibition is devoted to one of the most important discoveries made when large areas were being cleared a century ago to prepare Rome for its new role of capital of a united Italy.

The doll, nine inches high with an exquisitely carved head and movable limbs, was found in the tomb of Creperia Tryphena, a young woman buried with a splendid collection of jewels, during the preparation of the foundations of the present law courts, in May 1889.

Creperia's body was reduced to a skeleton inside its marble sarcophagus but it was covered with clear water. Weeks had gone around the skull and, as they moved to the water, they gave an impression of hair blowing in a breeze.

There were two tombs but that of Creperia made the deepest impression because of the presence of the doll. At the time it was thought to have been made of hard wood or ivory, but modern tests show that the substance is ivory. The woman's face was turned as if to look at the doll.

Articulated limbs, Roman style



Archaeology

Largest Saxon town found

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Excavations in Southampton have located the boundary ditch of the Saxon town, and shown it to be much larger than had been thought.

Saxon Hamwic was founded around AD 700 and flourished for two centuries. During that time dwellings were closely packed, even in the north-west corner of the town where the present excavations, on the Six Dials roundabout site, have taken place.

The houses were of a remarkably uniform width, some five metres, although their lengths ranged from 12 to 17 metres. They were built only three metres apart, fronting on to the regularly planned gravel streets.

The remains of 57 buildings, of timber and thatch with wattle and daub walls, have been found on the Six Dials site so far, and of these Mr Brisbane, one of the Southampton city archaeologists who is directing the excavation for the city and county councils and the Department of the Environment.

"Of equal importance is the ditch, which does not seem to be for defence. It is only two and a half metres deep, large enough to keep animals out, and shows that, instead of a Dark Age full of

battles and uncertainty, this was in fact a prosperous and peaceful period."

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kilometres to the north, for which Hamwic was the port. The regular plan may well have been the result of royal orders, perhaps of Ine, King of Wessex at the beginning of the eighth century.

Numerous trades were carried on in this miniature metropolis: iron, bronze and gold were worked, the latter craft in dictated by a dish matrix for making gold foil or embossing sheet gold, butchery was complemented by tanning and bone-working, and pottery and glass may have been manufactured.

Glass was also imported from the Rhineland, together with querns for grinding corn, and whetstones came from Norway. Coins show contacts with Mercia in the Midlands, with Kent, and with northern France.

Until the Viking raids of AD 840, in fact, Hamwic was "a busy, thriving port and market town", Mr Brisbane said. When it was replaced by medieval Southampton, 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) to the south-west, under the heart of the modern city, the latter settlement was half the size of its Saxon precursor.

Oxford man measuring up to the Yard

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, aged 43, who takes over today as Scotland Yard's director of information, is one of the new-style officers coming to the top in British police forces.

"Practical coppers" (as they like to be known), used to have a phrase for officers like him: "nine-day wonders".

That was jargon for young men destined for rapid promotion by virtue of their academic prowess rather than years of service. The antipathy dates back to the recruiting of an officer-cadre elite by Lord Trenchard when he was commissioner in the 1930s.

Mr Wells joined the Metropolitan Police in 1961 after graduating in modern languages and literature from St Peter's College, Oxford. His personality bears the imprint of the survival techniques he has learnt on his way to the top.

could put his career on the line to handle a hot issue without getting burnt.

Brent council had ordered all 26 civilian lecturers at the cadet school to stay away from Hendon in protest at the dismissal of Mr John Fernandes, a lecturer, who was asked to leave the premises in November 1982 for leaking to the press what the police still refer to as "allegedly racist" essays written by cadets. Sixteen lecturers defied the ban.

Mr Wells stood firm on two principles. "Firstly the commissioner has absolute discretion in what we teach and by whom it is taught; and secondly, John Fernandes will not be reinstated."

He praised the loyalty of the 16 who defied the council. They eventually accepted teaching posts in the cadet training school under Barnet Education Authority which takes over responsibility for academic studies this month.

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OBITUARY

CAPTAIN E. H. B. BAKER

Advances in hydrographic surveying

Captain E. H. B. Baker, DSO, who has died at the age of 83 was a Royal Navy hydrographer who made notable contributions to the improvements in naval surveying which took place in the 1930s thanks to the introduction of the echo sounder, particularly through his command of the survey ship HMS Challenger. In addition he had a distinguished war career until this was cut short by his capture by the Germans in the Aegean in 1943.

Edmund Henry Buckingham Baker, subsequently to be widely known throughout the Royal Navy as "Buck", was born in 1900 and served as a midshipman in the battle cruiser Indomitable during the First World War. In 1920 he went to Cambridge, returning to sea as a lieutenant two years later and specialising in hydrography.

His first survey ship was HMS Keltel in which he carried out work on surveys of the Thames estuary and the South coast. Later work took him further afield and he was involved in surveys of the west coast of Africa, the Red Sea, Borneo and Malaya, before returning to home waters where he stood by the building of the survey ship Challenger, officers of which embraced surveys of the east coast of Scotland and Labrador. During the winter of 1933-34 he was left in Labrador in charge of a shore based survey party and it was here that he was involved in a notable episode when he managed to escape from a 300 mile sledge journey from Nain in the severest winter conditions to go to the assistance of a Hudson Bay company trader at Hebron who had got into difficulty with the Eskimos.

On his return from Labrador in 1934 he took command of HMS Keltel and spent the next three years in charge of surveys in home waters. In 1937 he was appointed to command HMS Challenger. The development of the echo sounder in the 1930s had given a new dimension both to accuracy, speed and ease of surveying as compared with the old lead line methods and in the new echo sounder-equipped Challenger Baker was able to oversee important survey work in the West Indies, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, which has been of enduring value.

During the early part of the Second World War he was employed on survey work in connection with minelaying operations off Scotland and Iceland and in the Denmark Strait and in 1940 was involved in inshore surveying of coastlines and approaches to harbours during the Norway campaign. Later he was on the staff of Headquarters Combined Operations and did survey work in the Western Approaches before being sent to the Middle East where he commanded HMS Endeavour in the Red Sea.

He was about to be sent home from this appointment when the German U-boat U-100 was sighted in the Western Approaches and he was sent to this theatre where he was captured when the Germans took Leris in November 1943.

As a POW in the naval prison camp, Marlag and Milag Nord at Westerland, in Northern Germany, he found a new role as officer in charge of "security" - those details of escapes which it was advisable to keep a closely guarded secret from those not directly involved and, of course, from the Germans - as well as occasionally lending his very fine drawing hand on the preparation of false documents for would-be escapes. An abrupt character but fine combative stance towards his captors as a senior prisoner was also a factor in keeping other POWs in good heart in those wearisome conditions.

After the war he returned to the hydrographic department where he alternated sea and shore appointments, his service finally culminating in his command of the survey ship HMS Cook at the Coronation review at Spithead in 1953, where he was the senior captain afloat.

He was awarded the DSO in 1944 for his services in the Aegean.

MR HUBERT BLAKE

A colleague writes: Hubert Blake, MBE, was born in London in 1893 of Devon parents. As a young man he joined the stockbroking firm of L. Powell, Sons & Co, eventually becoming their senior partner. One of his main concerns was always the welfare of the staff and he was responsible for starting a pension fund for them which is still in force today.

He retired from the firm (which became incorporated with Laing & Crickshank) in 1965. He remained a member of the Stock Exchange for several years and was made a "Father of the House" after 50 years as a member.

In his younger days he became interested in the Scout Movement and took an active part in the training, both physical and educational.

At about the same time he became a member of the Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church in North London and formed a Young Men's Society attached to the church.

He felt that there was a need to provide young men and women from all walks of life with an opportunity to meet in a calm and friendly atmosphere to discuss and consider the big questions of life and religion. All points of view could be freely expressed, while at the same time he hoped to present the Christian point of view, which, he felt, was so often completely misunderstood. He played an active part in drawing together the young people attending the church by means of social functions, dances and sports.

In 1948 he became chairman of the National Penny-a-Week Appeal Committee for the Save the Children Fund and Children and Youth Aliyah, and served in that capacity for 17 years. During this time under his direction the income of the appeal increased every year until it reached over £250,000 a year. On his retirement, he was appointed vice-president of the Save the Children Fund, which he generously supported.

His other concern was for the welfare of the elderly. In 1948 he purchased a property in Waltham, The Priory, to provide a guesthouse for elderly men and women of limited means who would otherwise not be able to afford a holiday. He was thinking of the Londoners hit by post-war conditions. He founded Ses Air Ltd, a non-profit-making housing association which assumed responsibility for The Priory under his chairmanship.

In 1951, when there seemed no longer a need for such holiday accommodation, he arranged for the transfer of ownership to the

Field Lane Foundation. The Priory is now a residential home for the elderly and Mr Blake served as chairman of the home's committee until 1963.

He then concentrated all his efforts on helping the elderly disabled in the community, especially those suffering from multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, arthritis and similar afflictions. As he was keenly aware of the inadequate provisions made for them when no longer could find for themselves, he bought a property in Finchley and converted and adapted the house to meet their special needs. The major part of the funds needed for this purpose, he provided from his own resources.

After several extensions this home now accommodates residents, all severely disabled, all in need of and receiving special care and attention. Together with his wife he was substantially involved in the day-to-day running of the home for 18 years, and was chairman of the management committee throughout this time.

Hubert Blake's public service was recognized by his appointment as MBE in 1975. He will be remembered by innumerable other people who benefited from his generosity, his advice and help given freely and always in a quiet and unassuming manner.

Dr Eva Pawlik, who was European women's figure skating champion in 1949, has died in Vienna, at the age of 55. She won a silver medal at the 1948 Winter Olympic Games at St Moritz, and was runner-up in the world championships in that year.

After 1949 she turned professional. She then studied at Vienna University, graduating Ph.D. in 1955. In 1957 she married Rudi Seeliger, a fellow skater.

Sir Kenneth Owen Roberts-Wray, GCMG, QC, who died on August 29 at the age of 84 was Legal Adviser, Commonwealth Relations Office and Colonial Office from 1945 to 1960. He had chaired the 1944 Law Officers Conference in the West Indies and the Judicial Advisers Conferences in Uganda in 1953 and in Nigeria in 1956. For six months in 1963 he had been Acting Attorney-General in Gibraltar.

Mr Walter Henry John Christie, CBE, OBE, who died on August 25 at the age of 77, was an executive of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company 1959-68, and previously vice-chairman of the British India Corporation 1952-58.

Roman Catholic bishops urge greater unity

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Closer relationships between local Roman Catholic congregations and those of other churches are urged in a document published yesterday by the authority of the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

It asks them to enter into formal "covenants" with other churches, to express their commitment to cooperation and eventually to unity.

Although the document does not say so, the Roman Catholic Church is regarded by the other denominations as falling behind in efforts to achieve greater local unity, particularly through what are known as local ecumenical projects.

In many places, it is the one denomination not participating. The document approved by the bishops states that the projects are a form of the local covenanting they wish to encourage.

The covenant, is an act of formal commitment, is seen as having value in itself and as a point of departure for new and deeper relationships. The document advocates the principle that local congregations should only do separately what they cannot do together.

Suggested areas of joint operation include study, prayer, local evangelism, and the sharing of physical and human resources, including the sharing of church schools.

THE ARTS

London theatre

A bleak warmth

Our Day Out
Young Vic

Arriving at the Young Vic via television and the Liverpool Everyman, Willy Russell's pocket musical seems to have been born and bred in Waterloo Road.

Played against a curtain-sized enlargement of a school essay, *Our Day Out* begins in the same blow-by-blow style with the sight of a pack of comprehensive no-hopers being frisked for lemonade and chocolate, and loaded on to a bus for an improving trip to Bodiam Castle.

Before long the fags are out, a junior teacher is being propositioned from the back seats and a mutinous chant of "boring" is greeted by the Sussex countryside. They descend on a cafe like locusts, then stop off at a zoo, returning laden with kidnapped animals, and thence to Bodiam (represented by a blown-up infant-school picture) where the staff find themselves delivering information on the strategic use of the barbed wire into the empty air.

Besides staging a school essay, Mr Russell is also presenting a duel between two members of the staff: the liberal woman teacher who organized the trip (Rosallin Boxall) and a didactic authoritarian (Stephen Lewis) who joins as the resident killjoy. From his point of view, such trips are educationally worthless. From hers, these children have no educational hopes anyway, so why not at least give them a good day out? "We're in a job that's funded to fail."

The skill and zest of the show, wholeheartedly projected in Bob Eaton's production, derive from its success in following the adult argument through while preserving all the fun of a story for and mainly played by children.

Recruited from schools all over London, the company teams with sharply defiant personalities, among whom the quiet girl who refuses to come home is no less striking than the grinning lady-killer in the back seats. Apart from Marie Quenell, mooning over her love for "S" in one of the best numbers, they are not up to solos; but, so far as organized chaos and disciplined chorus work go, they are a treat.

They also persuade you to view the events through their eyes as a Dickensian fairy tale in which the Scrooge-like features of Mr Lewis gradually melt into those of an indulgent uncle, who celebrates his conversion by leading them off to the fair in a cowboy hat, at which point "tongue-in-cheek" hymns and reprises of "Coming Round the Mountain" give way to rock 'n' roll. Then they all pile happily into the bus, and the authoritarian world of angry parents and school discipline gradually returns.

"Why can't it always be like this?" asks the runaway girl on the beach. By the end it is clear that all they have had is a day out. I have rarely seen a show that combined such warmth with such bleakness.

Irving Wardle

New York City Ballet
Covent Garden

Tuesday night's performance, an all-Balanchine programme, brought the last of the London premieres in New York City Ballet's Covent Garden season. Balanchine insisted on the laborious title *Robert Schumann's "Davidsbündler"* for the big ballet he created in 1980, so it is not fanciful to read into its action an allusion to the composer himself as well as his ideas of a brave young group, David's Band, going out to smite the Philistines. Perhaps everything must be seen as happening inside the poor mad genius's mind.

What the setting depicts is a fragment of a great hall where a pianist sits playing with his back to us. The arches of the wall are echoed in the jagged curves of dead trees visible beyond, on the shore of a lake from which an imagined cathedral rises. The idea of the setting, based on a painting by Caspar Friedrich, seems to me a lot better than its crude realization by Rouben Ter-Arutunian.

I called it a big ballet, and so it is in scope, the pianist, Gordon Boelzner, is the only musician and the cast consists of just four couples, usually with only two dancers at a time on stage. Among them, Adam Laders perhaps comes closest to Schumann's Esenbues; it is he who at one point is threatened, by Philistines emerging from the shadows, nasty black creatures wielding huge quilts (critics, obviously). Laders ends the ballet, too, bidding farewell to the gracious Karin von Aroldingen.

The qualities of the various dancers are admirably used, especially that pair, and lovely, capricious yet contemplative Suzanne Farrell paired with the courteous formality of Jacques d'Amboise. Stephanie Selaid and Adam Laders are the most impetuous couple, Heather Watts and Peter Martins curiously subdued but with a scarcely concealed strength in reserve. As in *Liebeslieder Walzer*, Balanchine has his women wear



Closest to Esenbues: Adam Laders with the gracious Karin von Aroldingen

beeled shoes to establish a naturalistic mood before they change into ballet shoes to allow the dances to leap into a more fanciful manner. Von Aroldingen changes back for her last entry, and the men wear low heels throughout. This device enlarges an already wide variety of styles, from a drinking song to lovers' heart-pourings, through which the

choreography expresses the nature of the romantic artist. But perhaps Balanchine would say he was just making dances to match the music; which they do to perfection. Each to his own reading.

I have space only to mention two remarkable performances among new casts in the other

ballets given. Leading the Mozart *Divertimento No 13*, Joseph Duell proved himself a classical dancer of exceptional bearing, style and finish, and Heather Watts illuminated *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto* by the exemplary articulation of her dances in space and time.

John Percival

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Loving sense of untheatrical stillness

Dona Rosita, the Spinster
Royal Lyceum

Lorca's elegy for a beautiful girl in turn-of-the-century Granada, condemned to spinsterhood and a society watching its own time running out, is brought to Edinburgh by Nuria Espert's company. It gives, even for a theatregoer with little Spanish, a blessed taste of quality and delicacy amidst the rubbish and the and-miss-miss-miss-miss that we up here are finding hard to avoid. *The Cherry Orchard* will follow it here next week, and it stands the comparison honourably. Rosita's brief happiness with her cousin-fiance who is called to

South America and never returns is portrayed with an untheatrical lyricism that sets Spain a world away from Russia, and the accepted social apparatus of wedding-dress embroidery and nightgown sewing for the bridal night as a torment that a disappointed girl in Chekhov ever endured.

Prodigally, Lorca brings on stage a host of characters who intensify pressure on both the spinster and her social group: starving and pathetically genially unvarnished a few steps below, careless nouveau riche above (and how a drawing room's atmosphere crackles with those two classes facing each other) and a sweetly dignified old poet turned poor schoolteacher and suffering humiliation from rich brats.

In Espert's company these little parts, without exception, are carefully cast and beautifully played; as so often when watching great European theatre groups, you experience a sense of stillness, loving dedication and untheatricality which innocently casts shadows of nagging doubt over our own companies. Outstanding are Carmen Bernasconi as Rosita's young aunt, Carlos Lucena as her unworried uncle devoted to roses and Julia Martinez in the wonderful role of the earthly outspoken housekeeper.

Expert herself is mesmerizing. She ages, in convincing departure from Lorca's direction, largely by tightening her hair in a bun, and finally by a faintly hunched shuffle in a white shift that answers Lorca's image of the rose

changing from morning red to white death at night. Already, in Act II, she allows herself an arresting, apprehensive glance at breasts, face and waistline. In the great speech recognizing her despair, she tips toes as if dreaming.

Anthony Masters

Television

Prosody Shakespeare, stabbing guitars

Romeo and Juliet (Channel 4) was set in the Brazilian town of Ouro Preto which has, according to the commentary, "one foot in the eighteenth century and one in the twentieth"; this must be a most uncomfortable position, and may account for the fact that it could only topple backward into

the sixteenth. Although this Brazilian adaptation was "from William Shakespeare", it might just as well have been taken from the works of Mrs Oliphant or Theodore Dreiser. Apart from the final two lines, there was no poetry at all; perhaps Brazil is the place where the cuts come from.

Romeo enters in a plaid shirt; he is eating in a cafeteria and remarks about "choking gall" or "bawling love" might have been out of place, so instead his first line is "I'll kill that bell ringer woman". Since he is a "student of pharmacy", the Shakespearean prospect of poison opens up. It

was to prove the first disappointment of the evening.

Nevertheless this production had a certain measure of authenticity. With plaster images of the saints on every conceivable pedestal, the boys dressing up as girls and the women callously treated by every male in sight, *Romeo and Juliet* was as close as we are likely to get to the original setting. But in modern dress the result was still peculiar, like a version of *Grange Hill* directed by Buñuel with the Shakespearean elements provided by subdued lighting, the sound of guitars and the occasional stabbing.

Theatricality was at a premium, with eyes swivelling in all directions, desperate conversations about what to do next and church bells tolling for yet another funeral. It seems that in every country adolescent love is given the same treatment; it is a vessel into which the passions otherwise missing from ordinary life can be poured. *Romeo and Juliet* was a perfect example of raw, rather than cooked, drama.

Peter Ackroyd

We regret that the name of the artist Bridget Riley was wrongly spelled on this page yesterday.

Concerts

Intense confrontation of arrogant foes

BBCSO/
Lutoslawski/
Hickox
Albert Hall/Radio 3

...and if, by the way, I start this review in mid-afternoon while you are still dipping into the breakfast cereal that gives a rough idea of the effect of Roman Jablonski stabbing casually at his D string while the Promenaders are still rustling, thus launching the extraordinary, ruminative cadenza which opens Lutoslawski's Cello Concerto. Concerto form is wittily

reinvented in this 1960 classic of confrontation between an arrogant soloist and an overbearing orchestra; until Tuesday night I had heard the piece played only by its dedicatee, Mstislav Rostropovich, in whose hands the gestures are larger than life. Jablonski, who played the piece in Glasgow's Musica Nova in 1981 and in New York, recently brought to it a much tighter intensity; the brittle edges of Lutoslawski's invention were always emphasized, and he characterized even the tiniest phrase - a brief flourish near the close sticks in the memory, swept off the cello into the air - with great precision.

The composer, conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra, encouraged the brass to noisy outbursts against the soloist's ambition, and seemed to enjoy deploying his forces on this refined battlefield.

Earlier his *Live pour orchestre*, which he had conducted with the orchestra earlier this season, sounded technically more confident but musically less impressive, as if the gestures had taken over the content. The audience added its contribution to the alestoric interludes (intended for relaxation, says the composer) with great commitment.

The second half of the concert, conducted by Richard Hickox, sketches, dance routines, songs, flamenco and melodrama. That may make it sound like fun, but the material is all so weak it would have been howled off the stage by the notoriously ungenerous vaudeville audiences. And, if that was not the point, then I wonder what is the point in paying homage to a style while forgetting all the quickness, variety and vulgarity which made that style live.

One is left with the world's two efforts at a non-vaudeville consistency. First there is a birth-death scenario that fits all the

With Visconti's *The Leopard* restored to health, and opening at full length in London today, Geoff Brown asks how much more suppressed film remains in the archives

Reformation in the wake of Napoleon

Burt Lancaster's proud prince, with Claudia Cardinale, in *The Leopard*



For a few days in December 1963 zoological warfare erupted in Britain's newspaper headlines. "The Leopard Man Says: I Will Sue", shouted the London *Evening Standard* on December 18; he was suing, moreover, a company of foxes. The small print explained matters. This *Leopard Man* was the director Luciano Visconti, adapter of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's masterly novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition, *I gattopardo*; the film had won the Golden Palm award at Cannes that year. The foxes were the Twentieth-Century breed, who released the film in Britain and America with damaging cuts, bleached colour and an irritating English-language soundtrack. The war had reached the *Times* letters page the previous day: Visconti himself wrote from Rome, voicing his disgust in gentlemanly terms. But two months earlier, in the *Sunday Times*, no words had been minced: the director despatched a director hired by Fox to supervise the new version, soon progressed to respectable work on the big screen; the leading players - Burt Lancaster, Alida Valli, Claudia Cardinale - variously flourished; circulating prints gradually deteriorated, then disappeared. Seven films and 13 years later, Visconti died. Now, suddenly, the *Leopard Man* is scoring a posthumous victory: after spending time and money doctoring his work, Fox have just sent more time and money repairing the damage. New prints have been struck from the original Technicolor negative and English subtitles prepared; the restored film, 186 minutes long, opens today at the Gate Cinema, Notting Hill, in London. The *Leopard*, it seems, can change its spots - along with the fox.

Fox's reversal may be ironic, but it is not beyond comprehension. By linking up with Hollywood, Visconti and his producer ensured an enlarged budget, wider international release and the required services of Burt Lancaster - what other actor could incarnate Lampedusa's proud Sicilian prince, who touched chandeliers with his head and bent cutlery by mistake? As a corollary, however, Visconti's shrewdly atmospheric epic became prey to Hollywood's market forces. In 1963, the art-house audience that might have appreciated Italian disquisitions on history and politics was not yet clearly established; Fox's hands were also too occupied with *Cleopatra* to give *The Leopard* any special treatment.

Twenty years later, different market forces operate. Mass cinema audiences have dwindled and splintered, and the Hollywood factory belt has almost seized up. To meet these changed conditions, Fox now sports an "International Classics" division, primed to snap up quality imports

and repackage their past. Fear of subtleties has also dwindled; the distributors of Fassbinder's *Lili Marleen* and *Querelle* actually smothered their English dubbing to market them profitably as exotic foreign films. Then there is the *Napoleon* factor: Kevin Brownlow's painstaking restoration of Abel Gance's film suddenly turned the excavation of cinema history into something romantic, glamorous - a media event.

With *The Leopard* in good shape, mountains of mangled or discarded celluloid still remain somewhere on distributors' shelves, in archive cupboards or under beds, waiting to be stitched together. Perhaps the original 42 reels of Stroheim's *Greed* are out there; hope springs eternal, though for Welles's *Magnificent Ambersons* there seems little hope of redress - all the cut footage has reportedly gone up in smoke. Yet for other titles the prospects look rosy. The new climate certainly benefited Michael Cimino: in 1979 United Artists considered *Heaven's Gate* too big for its boots and forced the director to wield the scissors, successfully smashing its tenuous narrative to smithereens. Yet by 1982, at the Venice Film Festival, the cuts were restored; the complete version recently played in packed houses at the National Film Theatre.

In America new life has also been granted, a little surprisingly, to Vittorio de Sica's 1953 film *Stazione terminale*. Here is another Italian production which tangled with Hollywood (more precisely, David O. Selznick) and emerged, suitably, cut to 64 minutes and retitled *Indignities of an American Wife*. The wife was Selznick's own, Jennifer Jones, co-star with Montgomery Clift in a droopy drama about separating lovers, set in Rome's new railway station. Selznick removed a loud Italian wedding party, some hot kisses

and scattered surveys of station architecture. "I cannot pass judgement," de Sica said, so unlike Visconti, though he did venture that Selznick had perhaps cut "a little too much". Now, thanks to a nitrate print located in Japan, the architecture and kisses are back; the film lasts 95 minutes, and one trusts audiences are appreciative.

Paradoxically, the world's new respect for what French film posters call the *version integrale* has surfaced just when the definition of an original version is crumbling. From the linguistic standpoint, there never was an original *Leopard*; the international cast began work in English and slowly drifted into their own native tongues as shooting continued, every edition, therefore, was dubbed to some degree, and the present Italian version cuts us off from Lancaster's voice. But recent financial marriages between film, television and video have brought extra, fiendish complications.

Europe's television stations enable major directors like Bergman and Francesco Rosi to create works designed simultaneously as features and television series (the extended version of *Fanny and Alexander* is scheduled for the current Venice Film Festival). The small screen also allows directors to remodel their past work. The version of *The Godfather* saga showing throughout next week on BBC television not only expands Coppola's two films with unused footage; scenes are now positioned in chronological order, altering the atmosphere and shifting emphases. As financial deals and packaging devices multiply, the notion of the unique, untouchable art-work seems more and more in peril. But, with the splendours of the restored *Leopard* before us, the paradox poses no problems.

Sadler's Wells
Royal Ballet

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AUTUMN GARDENS NUMBER

Uncommon Autumn Bulbs
In an article illustrated in colour, Brian Mathew suggests some less familiar flowers for autumn.

Garden on the Kent Coast Arthur Hellyer considers the changes made in recent years in the important Lutyns garden of The Salvation, Sandwich. Greenhouse Design and Setting Ken Lammom looks at different styles of greenhouses

and ways of placing them decoratively in the garden.

Autumn Daisy Chains Christopher Lloyd selects his favourite daisies for the autumn.

Too Many Plants Spoil the Garden Tony Venison suggests that many gardens suffer from overcrowding with plants.

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Investment
and
FinanceCity Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 707.4 down 8.9
FT 100: 79.33 down 0.08
FT All Share: 450.38 down 4.16
Bargains: 17,157
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 59.7 down 0.79
New York: Dow Jones
Average: (latest) 1202.64 up 6.60
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 189.43 down 6.49
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index: 965.94 down 5.14
Amsterdam: 149.4, up 1.7
Sydney: AO Index: 701.3 up 8.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index: 914.10 down 0.02
Brussels: General Index
132.43 down 0.26
Paris: CAC Index: 134.7 down 1.2
Zurich: SKA General: 284.6 up 1.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4940 down 1/2 cent
Index 85.2 unchanged
DM 4.0325 up 0.0025
FF 12.1125 down 0.0175
Yen 368 down 2.25
Dollar
Index 129.5 up 0.2
DM 2.7030

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4955
Dollar \$2.6932
ECU \$2.564592
SDR \$2.698945

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9 1/2 %
Finance houses base rate 10 %
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2 %
3 month interbank 9 1/2 %
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/2 %
3 month DM 5 1/2 %
3 month Fr 15 1/2 %
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00 %
Fed funds 9 1/2 %
Treasury long bond 100 1/2 %
ECGD Fixed Rate Starting
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 6 to
August 2 1983 inclusive: 9.989
percent

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$414.25 pm \$414.50
close \$414.25-428.50 (\$227.50-
278) down \$3.50
New York latest: \$414.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$427-428.50 (\$228-278)
Sovereigns (new):
\$37.50-38.50 (\$25.25-26)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: Anglo American
Gold Investment, Arrow Chemi-
cals, BP, British Vending
Industries, Cadbury Sch-
weppes, Cambridge Electronic
Industries, Charterhouse
Group, Metal Closures Group,
Micro Business Systems,
Noble and Lund,
Finales: Continental Micro-
waves.
Economic statistics: United
Kingdom balance of payments
1983 edition.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

BET Group, Connaught
Rooms, Great Queen Street,
WC2 (12.15); The Bristol
Evening Post, Temple Way,
Bristol (noon); Carico Engi-
neering Group, The George
Hotel, Huddersfield (3.00);
Christian Salvages, 50 East
Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh
(noon); The Belfry Hotel,
Wishaw, Nr. Sutton Coldfield
(noon); Kinta-Kellas Rubber-
Estates, 1-4 Great Tower
Street, EC3 (noon); Renold,
Renold House, Wythenshawe,
Manchester (2.30); Salford TV,
Churchill Hotel, Portman
Square, W1 (11.30); Star
Offshore Services, The Baltic
Exchange, 14-20 St Mary Axe,
EC3 (noon); Syllone, Post
House Hotel, Leeds Road,
Bramhope, Nr. Leeds (2.30);
VTC, The Connaught Rooms,
Great Queen Street, WC2
(10.30).

NOTEBOOK

Babcock International, the
process plant and instrument
manufacturer, raised interim
pre-tax profit by 70 per cent to
£14m. The dividend has been
held at 3.4p. The improvement
in the American car and
furniture businesses and lower
interest rates and borrowings
helped increase profits. But the
value of the order book has
shrunk because of the down-
turn in demand for capital
projects.

Page 15

Industry leaders shed market share as fringe operators slash rates

Major motor insurers lose millions
in 'unrealistic' premium price war

By Andrew Carnell

Britain's major insurance companies are losing millions of pounds worth of business in a cut-throat price war over motor premiums.

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, Britain's second largest motor insurer, blames competition from fringe motor insurance companies for the loss of more than 60,000 of its clients in the past six months.

The increasingly intense competition followed the 10 per cent rise in premiums announced last October by GRE, which insures more than 1.6 million British motorists. GRE said that fringe insurers—those outside the top 15 companies—were slashing rates by £20 on the average British motor premium of £100.

In addition, these fringe companies are paying extra commission to insurance brokers in a bid to win business from the larger companies.

The loss of business in the six months to June 30 has cost GRE £5m in premium

PRETAX PROFITS	
General Accident	Guardian Royal Exchange
1978 £20.1m	£83.3m
1979 £26.5m	£75.8m
1980 £28.5m	£87.1m
1981 £104.9m	£89.1m
1982 £44.5m	£106.2m

income and means that the company has failed to increase its motor insurance premium income for the first time in memory.

Yesterday GRE said that the new rates being offered by fringe companies are unrealistic.

Problems on the British motor insurance account have been aggravated by the heavy incidence of claims in May and June. GRE reported a 10 per cent rise in motor claims in these months "for no apparent reason".

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance, Britain's largest motor insurance company, indicated problems on the motor account three weeks ago when it announced interim results for 1983.

In a bid to correct the imbalance on the account premiums were increased by 10 per cent from August 1. At the time Mr. Buchanan Marshall, chief general manager at General Accident, said the company was taking a lead to try to restore sense to the market, but he conceded that the company would probably lose market share as a result.

Further evidence of the effect which growing competition for motor insurance business is having on the industry will emerge today with publication of global returns from the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

The tough competition for motor business was responsible for GRE's British underwriting losses of £22.9m in the six months to June 30 against a loss of £20.7m for the same last year. Premium

income rose by 11 per cent to £533m throughout the group, although UK premium income grew modestly from £197m to £200m after problems on the motor side.

Despite the problems group pretax profits were up by 40 per cent to £50m and the board recommended an increase in the interim dividend from 7p to 7.75p.

Mr. Peter Dugdale, managing director of GRE, said that although the results are considerably better than the first half of last year they still reflect the difficult trading conditions in major markets areas like Britain, the US and Ireland.

The Republic of Ireland was a particularly difficult market, making an underwriting loss of £3.5m against a loss of £2.5m last year. Rates have been held back there by government price controls, GRE said.

The Canadian operation reported much improved results, making a £700,000 profit against last year's £3.5m underwriting loss.

Intervention stops dollar

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The dollar rose strongly in European markets again yesterday, propelled by money supply and interest rate worries. But it closed below last week's level, although up on the day, after a combination of central bank intervention, profit-taking and a smaller than expected rise in leading US economic indicators had trimmed its gains.

The pound slipped below \$1.49 at one stage but recovered to close at a cent down at \$1.4940. Sterling traded narrowly against European currencies and its trade-weighted value ended unchanged at 85.2.

The dollar's early strength in Europe, after it had risen overnight in the Far East, was attributed to remarks by Mr

Malcolm Baldrige, US Commerce Secretary, that interest rates would rise as the economy recovered unless there were cuts in the Federal budget deficit.

At one point, the dollar breached DM2.71 but dealers reported aggressive sales of dollars by the German central bank to protect the mark.

The index is a compilation of a dozen forward-pointing statistics covering manufacturing, employment, prices and other areas.

Johnson Matthey, the precious metal refiners and industrial group, suffered a fall of £1m to £6.2m in pretax profits during the first quarter to the end of June. But earnings per share rose from 12.8p to 13.1p.

The US composite index of leading economic indicators rose by 0.3 per cent in July, according to the Commerce Department, Moisés Allier writes.

The leading index, which is designed to forecast economic activity, has risen for 11 consecutive months.

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North Sea oil 'in line for investment'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Indications that the North Sea oil industry is moving into a second stage of development, with plans for multi-million pound investment, are expected to be given today at the World Petroleum Congress in London.

Shell UK is to explain how output from wells can be increased by new, if expensive, technology. A paper to be presented by Mr P. G. Bath, of Shell, and two Dutch colleagues, shows that a gas injection scheme costing £1.40m could result in as much as a further 300m barrels being produced from the Shell-Esso Brent field.

Gas injection techniques, if applied to all Shell-Esso fields in the North Sea, could result in production being increased by up to over 850 barrels.

With much North Sea gas already earmarked for sale to

British Gas, Shell suggests that nitrogen or carbon dioxide could be manufactured onshore and piped out to the oilfields. Such a scheme would lead to order worth millions of pounds for the British Steel industry.

The scheme, which has been studied by Shell, would involve two nitrogen producing platforms in the North Sea linked by pipeline to the oilfields.

The Norwegian Government has already announced tax changes to encourage a £200m scheme for increasing production.

Concentration on enhanced recovery methods comes as oil industry analysts say that there is a detectable change in the atmosphere in the North Sea industry. Signs for the future are increasingly encouraging.

Irish oil, page 16

Asda profits rise 27%

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Associated Dairies, the superstore, fresh foods and furnishings group, jumped well ahead of market expectations with pretax profits up 27 per cent to £77.38m in the year ended last April. Turnover was up just over 16 per cent at £1.5bn.

The consumer spending boom benefited the previously troubled Allied Carpets and Wades furnishing operations. Wades, in particular, showed a big jump in

operating profits, up from £82,000 to £1.6m.

In the Asda superstore chain, operating profits rose by nearly a quarter on turnover up by 18 per cent to £1.3bn.

The group is planning a one-for-three scrip issue. A final dividend of 1.75p will make total of 3p.

Investors' notebook, page 16

Smuggled gold warning

By Jeremy Warner

Customs & Excise has warned gold bullion and coin dealers that if they buy smuggled gold it will be subject to forfeiture.

The Customs believes that gold, valued at more than £100m has been smuggled into the country since April, 1982, when value-added tax was imposed on the sale of gold coins.

The smugglers either sell the gold directly to a dealer with the 15 per cent VAT element built in, and pocket the tax, or set up a company to deal with the big traders in the London market and then fail to hand over the VAT to Customs. This is known as the "disappearing trader" fraud.

But yesterday, the Customs sent a letter to traders telling them that they will lose out if it can be proved that they have bought smuggled gold. The letter, which was sent to all members of the gold market and to coin dealers listed in the Kruggerand directory, says that: "It is imperative that you satisfy yourself that the gold has not been improperly imported in order to safeguard your own position."

It lists 10 questions that dealers should ask themselves when they buy gold. These include how the gold is being delivered and, whether a quick settlement is being demanded and whether the seller has references.

Mr. Walter Shaw, director of Shaw Cavendish, which claims to be the biggest gold coin dealer in Britain, said yesterday: "It is a bit unfair for Customs to expect gold coin traders to take full responsibility for detecting smugglers."

"We have never to my knowledge bought smuggled coin."

The chairman of the Croydol Advertiser, Mr. Robert Silby, said: "Obviously it is and when an established family company is sold, but we faced an uncertain future when there was no likelihood of any continuity of family management."

The companies have been advised that the deal does not fall within the newspaper merger reference provisions of the 1973 Fair Trading Act.

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Banks continue talks on Brazilian debt

By Our Banking Correspondent

Brazil's advisory group of banks meets in New York today for more talks on easing the country's acute liquidity problems.

The International Monetary Fund and commercial banks are waiting for confirmation from Brazil that a new letter of intent has been signed, indicating Brazil's acceptance of further tough economic measures demanded by the IMF.

Commercial banks are then expected to agree to release more of a \$4.4bn (£2.9bn) loan to Brazil. So far, \$2.5bn has been disbursed, but further drawings were blocked until Brazil reached new agreement with the IMF.

Because of Brazil's escalating arrears now put at \$2bn, bankers are expected to release more of the loan without waiting for the IMF executive board to approve Brazil's programme.

However, further funds for Brazil from the IMF will need executive board approval, which is not expected before late next month at the earliest.

Washington sources stressed

Latin American foreign debt (bn)	
	Total at end 1982 short-term
Brazil	86.3 18.7
Mexico	94.8 25.8
Argentina	38.8 7.3
Venezuela	33.2 15.0
Chile	17.2 3.2
Peru	11.2 3.2
Colombia	10.2 3.3

last the IMF board would not approve the programme until the Brazilian congress passed new laws limiting pay rises to 80 per cent of the rise in the cost of living.

Commercial banks are continuing work on rescheduling plans for \$18bn of Venezuela's debts, but Venezuela's refusal to bow to an IMF programme until after December elections is likely to delay final agreement and has annoyed many bankers.

Some bankers are expected to oppose extending a 90-day moratorium on repayments of principal on public sector debt which expires on September 30.

Germans sentenced over bank fraud

Cologne (AP-DJ) - Two former executives of Herstatt Bank were each sentenced yesterday to 29 months in prison and were fined DM45,000 (about £10,700) after being found guilty of aiding and abetting fraud that led to the collapse of their bank in 1974.

The final sentences in the four-year trial were on Bernhard Graf von der Goltz, Herstatt's former general executive, and Heinz Hedderich, formerly head of the bank's foreign department.

Both men had already spent 16 months in custody, and the court ruled that the rest of their sentences could be suspended against a payment of DM30,000 each.

Herstatt's bankruptcy, the most spectacular in West German post-war banking history, followed the discovery of losses initially estimated at DM1.2bn allegedly caused by unauthorized currency dealings.

In its verdict, the court ruled Goltz, aged 48, and Hedderich, aged 53, had not profited personally from the bankruptcy. It also ruled the men had been cooperative during the trial.

But the court said that punishment requested by prosecutors was warranted because both men knew of the bank's fraudulent accounts and did not take proper action.

Family newspaper group to be sold

By Our Financial Staff

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers has reached provisional agreement to acquire Jesse Ward Investments, the family-owned newspaper group.

Jesse Ward owns The Croydol Advertiser which publishes nine weekly newspapers, three free newspapers and a monthly sports magazine.

PSN said the price is £2,311,200 of which £1,694,880

will be paid on completion and the rest a year later or when Jesse Ward presents an acceptable set of accounts, if that is earlier.

PSN plans major rationalization of the Croydol group. The London printing works will be closed and production transferred to Portsmouth. The Croydol head office, Advertiser House, is being sold.

The companies have been advised that the deal does not fall within the newspaper merger reference provisions of the 1973 Fair Trading Act.

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Crucial aircraft contract awarded to UK and US companies

Rediffusion shares £30m MoD order

By John Lawless

The Ministry of Defence yesterday placed a crucial order, possibly worth about £30m, with one British and one American company to work together to build four of the world's most advanced crew-training simulators for the Panavia Tornado aircraft.

The contract was awarded to Rediffusion Simulation and Link-Miles, which are strong rivals in the flight simulator business but have worked together since 1977 on six simulators for the low-level strike version of the Tornado.

The last two are now being installed at RAF stations in Britain and West Germany.

The new MoD order is for simulators that will train two-man crews for the latest front-line interceptor version of the

Tornado, which is replacing such aircraft as the Lightning and the Phantom.

Rediffusion Simulation is part of the capital electronics division of Rediffusion, which is owned by BET. Link-Miles is owned by Singer of the United States.

The crucial nature of the contract cannot be understated, given the poor business in the commercial airline field.

The worldwide market for commercial airline flight simulators, which cut costs by enabling pilots to train on the ground, has fallen sharply.

In 1981 and 1982, total orders from airlines slumped from 25 to just 13, and this rate of decline has continued in 1983.

Rediffusion last year enhanced its tag as a "world-leader" by

taking eight orders for machines worth about £5m a time. But that was exactly the same number as it sold in 1981.

Rediffusion may maintain its claim to a 70 per cent stake of all orders this year, but only at the cost of volume. That emphasizes how vital the military market has become.

The MoD and the two companies will not say how much the new contract is worth. The machines, however, are vastly more complex than simulators for, say, jumbo jets. It is "like designing for Star Wars-type machines", a specialist said yesterday.

Rediffusion is working on the front half for the pilot. Link-Miles has "the jumbo jet", which teaches the navigator how to

handle radar and electronic weaponry.

The British company has, over the past 10 years, significantly increased its share of military work to represent about 40 per cent of sales in 1982. It has had no lay-offs among its 1,500 workforce at Crawley, Sussex, and having increased its profits last year through increased military sales - it knows that it must continue to win military orders throughout the world.

The company is by far the largest part of the Rediffusion capital electronics division, and contributed almost £60m to group turnover of £222m in 1982-83.

The Tornado order is the first of up to six large deals now being firmly bid for around the world.

City Editor's Comment

Ship of state takes on new helmsmen

Virtually every nationalized industry chairman leaves office a wiser man than when he first agreed to take the poisoned chalice. Most are also sadder - reflecting the fact that running one of the State industries is (like Dr Johnson's view of remarriage) very much a triumph of hope over experience.

Tempting as it is, it is therefore only prudent not to take too rosy or optimistic an attitude to the fact that today marks a significant change in personnel at the helms of several of our key State industries.

Departing are Sir Norman Siddall (coal), Mr Ian MacGregor (steel) and Sir Robert Atkinson (shipbuilders); in their places come Mr MacGregor again (switching to coal), Mr Robert Haslam (steel) and Mr Graham Day (shipbuilders). Soon to follow the exodus from the nationalized industries' chairman's group is Sir Peter Parker at British Rail, although his successor has yet to be named.

The new appointments are critical for several reasons. For a start they mean that this Government has finally got in place the men that it sees as being equipped to carry out the revolution - it is no less - in working habits, efficiency and employment that lies at the heart of the Government's approach to nationalized industries.

Bailouts

All three men who are giving up chairman's seats today are popular for one reason or another with ministers. All three are indeed appointees of this Government, and one of them, Mr MacGregor, is only shifting sideways. But there is no disguising the fact that it is not until now that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues feel that they have finally got the right men into the right seats at the right time.

The first years of the 1979 administration, which resulted in the massive tax

payers' bailouts of British Steel, British Leyland and the National Coal Board, are acknowledged to have been wholly unsuccessful in bringing the State industries to book: indeed they did as much as any other factor to blow the Government off its appointed course.

Recent studies by Whitehall of long-term public spending problems have highlighted the fact that rail and coal in particular are going to remain a heavy drain on public funds until at least 1990. Although in absolute terms, its losses are still minor compared with those of its larger counterparts, British Shipbuilders has emerged as the third most worrying industry. In relative terms its drain on public funds - more than £100m a year - is unacceptably severe.

Climate

Much, therefore, rides on the success of the new chairmen who take over this month. Compared with four years ago, the climate for streamlining and rationalization is pretty good. The steelworkers' union has been routed, the shipbuilders are all too clearly on borrowed time, and Mr MacGregor is now everybody's favourite in the inevitable conflict with Mr Scargill over pit jobs that is now looming. The rail unions have yet to be brought to heel.

There is nothing however that will do more to allow these the new chairmen to deliver some of the Government's promises than a sustained economic recovery.

There will be rows between the chairmen and the Government. There will be disputes over privatization, and how central a role change in ownership *per se* should have in any long-term plans for the industries. That much is certain. The City, however, will do well to take the smile - or grimace - on the face of these brave appointees as a key indicator to the health of the economy.

Rockware chief named

Mr Frank Davies, former divisional chairman of Alcan UK, the steel group, was named yesterday as the new chief executive of Rockware Group, the glassmakers.

He succeeds Mr Jim Craigie, aged 72, who combined the job with chairmanship of the company. That job will now be taken by Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman.

Executive management changes will take place at a special shareholders meeting on September 14, called to seek approval of a rescue package, which involved 16 financial institutions putting £10m of new finance into the group.

For the 26 weeks to June 26 Rockware lost £8.51m pretax

WALL STREET

Dow up by 7 points

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Stocks were broadly higher yesterday, after overcoming a lower start.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 7 points to 1,203. Advancing issues lead declines by an 8-to-5 margin. However, volume was showing little improvement.</

APPOINTMENTS

Shuffle at the top of Thorn EMI

Thorn EMI's Mr. Dennis Neill, the deputy managing director, will relinquish his executive duties and retire from the board on December 31.

Thorn EMI Engineering Group is being reorganized and will operate through two enlarged high technology divisions. Thorn EMI Electronics (chief executive, Mr. T. Mayer) and Thorn EMI Information Technology (chief executive, Mr. C. Southgate). The remaining businesses will be regrouped as Metal Industries, with Mr. P. Hayman as chairman.

The engineering businesses, together with Thorn EMI Telecommunications, will continue to report to Sir William Barrow, Mr. J. Owen is appointed chairman of a newly-created Commercial Group from October 1. Initially, this will include Thorn EMI Foodservice Equipment and Thorn EMI Flow Measurement and from January 1, the Thorn EMI Domestic Appliances companies.

Mr. D. W. V. Parker is made chairman of Thorn EMI Domestic Appliances from January 1. Mr. D. B. Hewitt is appointed managing director of Thorn EMI Ferguson from January 1. Mr. R. E. Norman continues as chairman. Mr. R. F. Eade has assumed a corporate role as director of commercial technology.

Woolwich Building Society: Miss Patricia Mann, vice-president of J. Walter Thompson International and head of external affairs, J. Walter Thompson Group (UK) has been appointed to the board.

Simplex-GEC: Mr. Joseph E. Fogliano has been appointed managing director and chief operating officer.

Lloyd's of London Press: Mr. R. W. Curd, Mr. K. M. Ratcliffe, Dr. Elizabeth Muller and Mr. D. Lodge have become executive directors.

Halifax Building Society: Mr. J. R. Scantle and Mr. J. A. Kay have joined the society's London Board of directors.

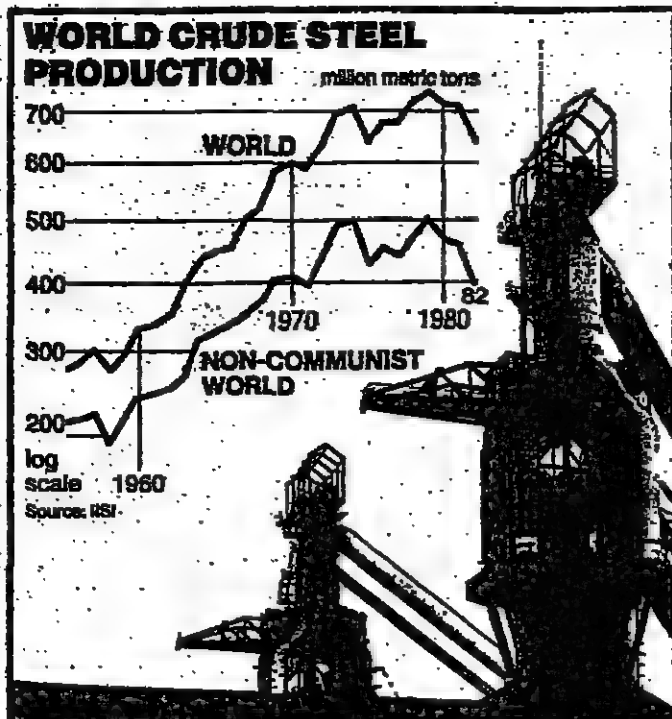
J. H. Misset & Co: Mr. Peter Trend has joined the company and will take over responsibility for the Bloodstock account.

English China Clays: Dr. Stanley Davidson and Mr. Robert Carlton-Porter have been appointed directors.

D. J. Freeman & Co: Mr. Martin Northcott, Mr. Richard Powell, Mr. Stephen Walker, Mr. Marcus Rutherford and Miss Mary Teyman have joined the partnership.

Victims of the world recession - 2: Edward Townsend looks at the steel industry

Rebuilding a slimmer giant from the world scrapheap



considerations are bound to be a major constraint on most steel substitutes. Thinking along these lines, it is utterly impossible for me to subscribe to the view voiced by some that the steel industry is on the wane.

Certainly, steel looks like being the mainstay of manufacturing industry for many decades to come, but in the present climate (price cutting in the US is at its most fierce since the 1930s) its long term future must be questioned in relation to competitive materials.

The main villains were Opec's two oil price crises

Steel consumption in the US, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France last year was 203 million tonnes, a fall of more than a fifth on the peak year of 1973 and more than four times greater than the decline in activity in those countries' leading steel-making industries.

The authoritative *World Steel Dynamics* review by the New York stockbroker Paine Webber Mitchell Hutchins blames the big slump on the trend, particularly in the US, towards smaller, lighter and less chunky cars, continuing losses to other materials (aluminium is thought to reduce steel demand normally by 1 per cent a year) the severe lag on capital spending in many countries, and the lack since 1974 of any periods anywhere in the world of above-average economic growth.

When economies are booming, steel demand tends to rise dramatically as there is much more money and incentive for big projects like factories and power stations. Periods of slower growth, such as that possibly being experienced at present, are more likely to see expansion in the service industries.

The stockbroker points out that the biggest positive factor affecting steel consumption in the years 1975-81 was the boom in development of energy sources, which in the US alone caused a million tonnes rise in steel use in areas such as oil well drilling, energy storage and transportation.

The main villain, of course, was the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

whose headquarters, ironically for this year's IISI conference organizers, is in Vienna. The two main oil price crises of the 1970s brought the shutters down on the western world economies and consequently on the steel industries.

Now, the crude price has fallen back from \$34 a barrel to \$29 and there is every hope that it will not go up faster than inflation at least for the remainder of this decade. The consequent economic advance should provide a spur to the steel mills and the stock-

Longer term, steel can regain some of its former glory

brokers are forecasting a steel "shortage" - a period of premium prices for steel on the world export market - in 1986.

If steel consumption in the west rebounded by only 10 per cent, plus a building of stocks by users and at the mills, output could increase to 500 million tonnes a

year and, the stockbroker says, "blow the lid off steel prices". In such circumstances, the spot export price could rise from the present figure of about \$335 a tonne to \$540.

Meanwhile, the shortage of sufficient capital among steel-makers should ensure that there is little significant increase in world capacity. Total capacity is forecast to grow by only 1 per cent a year probably until the end of the century.

So it seems that in the longer term, steel can look forward to regaining some of its former glory.

In the immediate future the prospects are bleak: the European Commission, for example, has called for another 150,000 job losses throughout the Community, for example, has called for another 150,000 job losses throughout the Community's steel industries by the end of 1985 if there is to be any chance of a return to viability.

In the US, the industry has faced a crisis of disaster proportions, much greater than that of the Europeans and the basic cause of the country's decision to erect barriers against imports.

Shipments of steel to the car factories fell by 29 per cent last year compared with 1981 to 9.3 million tons - in 1973 the car sector absorbed 23.2 million tons - appliance shipments were down a quarter, construction shipments by 29 per cent, oil and gas shipments by 56 per cent, and so on.

Even the super-efficient Japanese industry has been badly mauled by the recession. The country's steel mills have been operating at just 56 per cent of capacity this year, less than Britain, France and West Germany and their losses in the first quarter were estimated at \$67 per tonne.

The consequence is bound to be a continued period of friction in the international markets, with companies keen to offset their problems by trying to forge deals such as the idea to combine the British Steel Corporation's Scottish steel plant output with the finishing capacity of United States Steel in Philadelphia.

Such arrangements are, presumably, in accord with the rather pompous sentiments expressed at the IISI's 1977 conference in Rome by a past chairman, Mr. Eshiro Saito. Referring to expected difficulties in the 1980s he quoted a Zen saying: "Only when one perceives pleasure in the midst of pain can one begin to understand the exquisite meaning of life."

Most steelmen, however, would settle for a decent profit. Tomorrow: Shipping.

Industrial notebook

Reports that carry weight at work

The time-honoured journalistic principle of dealing with voluminous official reports - weigh them, skim them but for God's sake don't read them - has nowhere been put to greater test than with the outpourings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and other independent investigations on the nationalized industries.

Last week's 250-page tome on British Gas produced by Deloitte's, the accountants, follows the two mammoth efforts on the Central Electricity Generating Board, and the National Coal Board produced by the Monopolies Commission.

All three works are the fruit of the Government's policy of using exhaustive efficiency audits by outsiders as a tool in the never-ending struggle to keep the nationalized industries on their toes.

No doubt the weight of the finished products has done much to justify the cost to public funds of producing them, while the contents will keep a platoon or two of backroom Whitehall paper-pushers employed for many a month.

The crucial question is, of course, whether the reports succeed in their purpose of improving efficiency in the State sector of industry. The industries themselves have - with varying degrees of sophistication - complained that the investigations are little more than cases of a bunch of amateurs being sent in with a clear mandate to find fault. Nobody should be surprised by this.

More interesting is the response of the Government which, despite its reputation of being an ardent defender of the nationalized industries, has made little political capital out of the reports' findings.

There was some ritual beefing at the CEBG over its plainly inadequate forecasting methods, but ministers have fallen over themselves not to make a scene over the coal and gas reports.

The NCB report was gathering dust for more than six months until the election was safely out of the way (mostly for fear of upsetting the National Union of Mineworkers), while the appearance of the Deloitte's gas study in the middle of the holiday season, shows that the Government has, if anything, been keen to minimize rather

than maximize its political impact.

This is the more surprising because all three reports have tended to come up with the kind of conclusions that the Government would be expected to like.

They have, for example, more than endorsed the politically unpopular dose of gas price rises in the last four years (the only criticism being that the increases have not gone far enough), while if there was ever any doubt about the need for an accelerated programme of pit closures, the Monopolies Commission has killed it with its detailed and excruciating exposure of the coal board's finances.

It is true that the quality of analysis has not always been as sophisticated as it might be. For example, one of Deloitte's conclusions reads simply: "We saw a surprisingly high number of unutilized vehicles... we recommend that fleet sizes should be limited and strictly controlled" - in which hardly ranks as in-depth analysis.

But that is an exception. The outwardly cool response of both the industries and the Government should not be allowed to disguise the fact that the investigations do represent a significant step forward.

More important is the undoubted flow for greater accountability that publication of such detailed information about the industries represents. Those who defy the journalistic tradition and read through the tomes will find a wealth of fact that has never seen the light before, and which goes beyond the inadequate and sometimes downright misleading information in many State industries' annual reports and accounts.

The Monopolies Commission's breakdowns of the losses at individual collieries is for example something that journalists and MPs have long sought in vain.

There is a parallel here with the House of Commons select committees, which are still struggling to justify their new-found powers. Their reports may be patchy in quality, but the knowledge that information must be given and published - even if few bother to read it - is proving one of the most powerful incentives to efficiency that can be turned on either Whitehall or nationalized industry boards. More verbal messages, please.

Jonathan Davis

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	Current Price	Previous Price	Change
1. 1st Unit	100.00	98.50	+1.50
2. 2nd Unit	105.00	103.00	+2.00
3. 3rd Unit	110.00	108.00	+2.00
4. 4th Unit	115.00	113.00	+2.00
5. 5th Unit	120.00	118.00	+2.00
6. 6th Unit	125.00	123.00	+2.00
7. 7th Unit	130.00	128.00	+2.00
8. 8th Unit	135.00	133.00	+2.00
9. 9th Unit	140.00	138.00	+2.00
10. 10th Unit	145.00	143.00	+2.00
11. 11th Unit	150.00	148.00	+2.00
12. 12th Unit	155.00	153.00	+2.00
13. 13th Unit	160.00	158.00	+2.00
14. 14th Unit	165.00	163.00	+2.00
15. 15th Unit	170.00	168.00	+2.00
16. 16th Unit	175.00	173.00	+2.00
17. 17th Unit	180.00	178.00	+2.00
18. 18th Unit	185.00	183.00	+2.00
19. 19th Unit	190.00	188.00	+2.00
20. 20th Unit	195.00	193.00	+2.00
21. 21st Unit	200.00	198.00	+2.00
22. 22nd Unit	205.00	203.00	+2.00
23. 23rd Unit	210.00	208.00	+2.00
24. 24th Unit	215.00	213.00	+2.00
25. 25th Unit	220.00	218.00	+2.00
26. 26th Unit	225.00	223.00	+2.00
27. 27th Unit	230.00	228.00	+2.00
28. 28th Unit	235.00	233.00	+2.00
29. 29th Unit	240.00	238.00	+2.00
30. 30th Unit	245.00	243.00	+2.00
31. 31st Unit	250.00	248.00	+2.00
32. 32nd Unit	255.00	253.00	+2.00
33. 33rd Unit	260.00	258.00	+2.00
34. 34th Unit	265.00	263.00	+2.00
35. 35th Unit	270.00	268.00	+2.00
36. 36th Unit	275.00	273.00	+2.00
37. 37th Unit	280.00	278.00	+2.00
38. 38th Unit	285.00	283.00	+2.00
39. 39th Unit	290.00	288.00	+2.00
40. 40th Unit	295.00	293.00	+2.00
41. 41st Unit	300.00	298.00	+2.00
42. 42nd Unit	305.00	303.00	+2.00
43. 43rd Unit	310.00	308.00	+2.00
44. 44th Unit	315.00	313.00	+2.00
45. 45th Unit	320.00	318.00	+2.00
46. 46th Unit	325.00	323.00	+2.00
47. 47th Unit	330.00	328.00	+2.00
48. 48th Unit	335.00	333.00	+2.00
49. 49th Unit	340.00	338.00	+2.00
50. 50th Unit	345.00	343.00	+2.00
51. 51st Unit	350.00	348.00	+2.00
52. 52nd Unit	355.00	353.00	+2.00
53. 53rd Unit	360.00	358.00	+2.00
54. 54th Unit	365.00	363.00	+2.00
55. 55th Unit	370.00	368.00	+2.00
56. 56th Unit	375.00	373.00	+2.00
57. 57th Unit	380.00	378.00	+2.00
58. 58th Unit	385.00	383.00	+2.00
59. 59th Unit	390.00	388.00	+2.00
60. 60th Unit	395.00	393.00	+2.00
61. 61st Unit	400.00	398.00	+2.00
62. 62nd Unit	405.00	403.00	+2.00
63. 63rd Unit	410.00	408.00	+2.00
64. 64th Unit	415.00	413.00	+2.00
65. 65th Unit	420.00	418.00	+2.00
66. 66th Unit	425.00	423.00	+2.00
67. 67th Unit	430.00	428.00	+2.00
68. 68th Unit	435.00	433.00	+2.00
69. 69th Unit	440.00	438.00	+2.00
70. 70th Unit	445.00	443.00	+2.00
71. 71st Unit	450.00	448.00	+2.00
72. 72nd Unit	455.00	453.00	+2.00
73. 73rd Unit	460.00	458.00	+2.00
74. 74th Unit	465.00	463.00	+2.00
75. 75th Unit	470.00	468.00	+2.00
76. 76th Unit	475.00	473.00	+2.00
77. 77th Unit	480.00	478.00	+2.00
78. 78th Unit	485.00	483.00	+2.00
79. 79th Unit	490.00	488.00	+2.00
80. 80th Unit	495.00	493.00	+2.00
81. 81st Unit	500.00	498.00	+2.00
82. 82nd Unit	505.00	503.00	+2.00
83. 83rd Unit	510.00	508.00	+2.00
84. 84th Unit	515.00	513.00	+2.00
85. 85th Unit	520.00	518.00	+2.00
86. 86th Unit	525.00	523.00	+2.00
87. 87th Unit	530.00	528.00	+2.00
88. 88th Unit	535.00	533.00	+2.00
89. 89th Unit	540.00	538.00	+2.00
90. 90th Unit	545.00	543.00	+2.00
91. 91st Unit	550.00	548.00	+2.00
92. 92nd Unit	555.00	553.00	+2.00
93. 93rd Unit	560.00	558.00	+2.00
94. 94th Unit	565.00	563.00	+2.00
95. 95th Unit	570.00	568.00	+2.00
96. 96th Unit	575.00	573.00	+2.00
97. 97th Unit	580.00	578.00	+2.00
98. 98th Unit	585.00	583.00	+2.00
99. 99th Unit	590.00	588.00	+2.00
100. 100th Unit	595.00	593.00	+2.00

Cricket: the dour and the poorly hold up championship rivals but Essex still have the advantage

Essex could not make mincemeat and Lancashire are out of a stew

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD: Essex, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 35 runs ahead of Lancashire.

Essex, to their great delight, found Lancashire short of five of their regular first team, including Clive Lloyd, and began by making mincemeat of them. By the end of the day, though, Lancashire's mostly young side had fought back very well. Essex being 160 for 8 in reply to 122.

Soon after lunch Essex already had four bonus points for bowling. For most of a hazy morning the ball swung like a boomerang. Lancashire, captained by Simmons, had opted to bat, Essex, when they batted, lost their wickets more to carelessness, or perhaps it was overcautious, to get the championship won before the weather plays a part. It may not be a good pitch, but it is nothing like as bad as the scores might suggest.

SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE: First Innings	
G Fowler 10-0-1-0-0	4
A Chadwick 10-0-1-0-0	1
B J O'Connell 10-0-1-0-0	1
C H Hayes 2-0-0-0-0	1
S M N Zaidi 10-0-1-0-0	1
J Jaffer 10-0-1-0-0	1
J Simmons 10-0-1-0-0	1
D P Hughes 10-0-1-0-0	1
M Wadsworth 10-0-1-0-0	1
P W Atkinson 10-0-1-0-0	1
Extras (10-0-1-0-0)	1

Total (46 overs) 122

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-38, 3-100, 4-23, 5-30, 6-34, 7-57, 8-84, 9-88, 10-122.

BOWLING: Essex 20.0-5-35-122, 21.0-5-35-122, 22.0-5-35-122, 23.0-5-35-122, 24.0-5-35-122, 25.0-5-35-122, 26.0-5-35-122, 27.0-5-35-122, 28.0-5-35-122, 29.0-5-35-122, 30.0-5-35-122.

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gough 10-0-1-0-0	17
C G Smith 10-0-1-0-0	17
B J Harrell 10-0-1-0-0	17
C H Hayes 10-0-1-0-0	17
S M N Zaidi 10-0-1-0-0	17
J Jaffer 10-0-1-0-0	17
J Simmons 10-0-1-0-0	17
D P Hughes 10-0-1-0-0	17
M Wadsworth 10-0-1-0-0	17
P W Atkinson 10-0-1-0-0	17
Extras (10-0-1-0-0)	17

Total (46 overs) 180

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-38, 3-100, 4-23, 5-30, 6-34, 7-57, 8-84, 9-88, 10-122.

BOWLING: Essex 20.0-5-35-122, 21.0-5-35-122, 22.0-5-35-122, 23.0-5-35-122, 24.0-5-35-122, 25.0-5-35-122, 26.0-5-35-122, 27.0-5-35-122, 28.0-5-35-122, 29.0-5-35-122, 30.0-5-35-122.

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D P Hughes 10-0-1-0-0	17
M Wadsworth 10-0-1-0-0	17
P W Atkinson 10-0-1-0-0	17
Extras (10-0-1-0-0)	17

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BOWLING: Essex 20.0-5-35-122, 21.0-5-35-122, 22.0-5-35-122, 23.0-5-35-122, 24.0-5-35-122, 25.0-5-35-122, 26.0-5-35-122, 27.0-5-35-122, 28.0-5-35-122, 29.0-5-35-122, 30.0-5-35-122.

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gough 10-0-1-0-0	17
C G Smith 10-0-1-0-0	17
B J Harrell 10-0-1-0-0	17
C H Hayes 10-0-1-0-0	17
S M N Zaidi 10-0-1-0-0	17
J Jaffer 10-0-1-0-0	17
J Simmons 10-0-1-0-0	17
D P Hughes 10-0-1-0-0	17
M Wadsworth 10-0-1-0-0	17
P W Atkinson 10-0-1-0-0	17
Extras (10-0-1-0-0)	17

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ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gough 10-0-1-0-0

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 **Cee-ee AM:** News in brief, and sport, weather and traffic information available to you whether you have teletext facility or not.

6.30 **Breakfast Time:** With Sue Cook and Frank Bough. Includes news bulletins at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Farming (between 6.30 and 7.00) Keeping fit (6.45-7.00) Tonight's TV (7.15-7.30), Morning papers (7.32 and 8.32); Breakfast Time Doctor (8.30-9.00).

9.00 **Scouty Doo Where Are You?** cartoon by Mike Iles of Wight TV station for youngsters. Hang-gliding items, etc. 9.45 Jackanory: Ann Morley reads from Ann Phillips's *The Multiplying Glasses*. 10.00 **Write the Wiles:** Kenneth Williams supplies the voices (10.05) Take Hart with Tony Hart, and Morph (10.20) Close down.

10.00 **News After Hours:** with Fern Britton and Richard Whitmore; 1.27 **Financial Report:** and sub-titled news; 1.30 **Buzz:** for the very young.

1.45 **The New Foresters:** Interviews in the New Forest, with the self-taught painter Monica Coleman, and the butcher Ronald Hayward who is keeping the old family trade going through his son it was started by his great grandfather.

1.55 **Film: The Long Arm (1956):** Scotland Yard thriller, with Jack Hawkins as the detective on the trail of a gang of safe robbers. With John Strain, Dorothy Alison, Michael Brooke and Geoffrey Keen. Directed by Charles Fland.

1.50 **The Flying Boats:** Second of three films about the giants that were as much at home on the sea as in the air. Today, the flying boats go to work. With David James.

1.50 **Play School:** the story of a day in the life of a young child (see also BBC 2, 10.30 am); 4.45 **Held:** episode 22 of this 26-part serialisation of the children's classic (1).

1.50 **John Christie's Newsround:** 5.10 **Charlie Brown:** animated version of the cartoon strip; 5.35 **The Perkinsons:** with Leonard Rossiter (1).

1.50 **South East at Six:** 1.25 **Doctor Who:** two of Black Orchid. With Peter Davison and Barbara Murray (1).

1.50 **The Wonderful World of Disney:** part two of *Donovan's Kid*, a drama about a con-man who wants to re-claim his wife and child. With Danny McGavin and Mickey Rooney.

1.50 **Top of the Pops:** live. With John Peel and David Jensen.

1.50 **Fame:** More about the Broadway-mad youngsters. Laffey and Cee are blackmailed by Lydia into coaching a church basketball team but the game clashes with the school's annual production.

1.50 **News:** with Nicholas Witchell.

1.50 **The Life and Times of David Lloyd George:** Film episode of Elaine Morgan's serial about the "Welsh wizard". Tonight, he loses office, but gains a second wife. He makes a speech that helps to decrease Chamberlain in favour of Churchill as war leader. With Philip Madoc and Kika Markham (1).

1.50 **Secrets:** Two examples of Britain's 80 laws with clauses that prevent officials giving information to the public. With Ed Boyle (see Choice), 11.13 News.

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TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain:** with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; Sport at 8.45, 7.45 and 8.55; Morning papers at 7.05; Competition quiz at 7.25 and 8.25; You and Your Money; at 7.50; Gossip Who? (with celebrity guest) at 8.05; Chris Tarrant in Rhythm at 8.05; Maddy Lizzie, at 8.55; Rat on the Road with Kevin the Baiter go to York, at 8.00.

12.00 **Haggerty Haggerty:** with George Cole. 12.00 Get up and Go! with Beryl Reid. 12.30 **The Sullivan:** Australian family series.

1.00 **News:** 1.20 **Thames area news;** 1.30 **Essex and Farm (1).**

2.00 **A Plus: Healing and Health:** Those interviewed included David Harvey, author of the recently published book *Healing Power*; 2.30 **Racing from York:** we see the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40.

4.00 **Children's TV:** Haggerty Haggerty (1); 4.15 **Saga Bunny:** cartoon; 4.30 **On Safari:** "Jungle" fun, with Roy Kinnear and Christopher Biggins (1); 4.45 **Home:** Australian drama series; 5.15 **Young Doctors:** Hospital series.

5.45 **News:** 6.00 **Thames area news;** 6.10 **Essex and Farm (1).**

6.30 **What's It Worth?** Consumers' letters answered. With John McVie.

6.40 **Thames Plus:** Live from Sunningdale, venue for the European Golf Open. Plus general sports round-up and a preview of the Keith Wallace v Juan Diaz flyweight battle in London tonight.

7.10 **I Scream:** A film about a family who live in a house with a ghost. Joe Murray, now 66, living alone, with his wife, and his two children, are determined to retain his independence.

7.40 **Film: The Ghost of Flight 401 (1977):** Made-for-TV thriller about a pilot's haunting experience after his jumbo jet crashed in the Florida Everglades. Apparently based on fact. With Ernest Borgnine, Gary Lockwood and Kim Besinger.

9.30 **European Connections:** France, Stasbourg - Jean Pairs. A film about a Frenchman who is blackmailed by Lydia into coaching a church basketball team but the game clashes with the school's annual production.

10.00 **News:** and Thames news headlines.

10.30 **Edgar Wallace Presents:** *Incident at Midnight (1963):* Modesty made British thriller about a drug addict and former surgeon (Martin Miller) who, while waiting in an all-night chemist's shop, receives a former Nazi (Fenton Driffield). Also starring William Sylvester. Directed by Norman Hinton.

12.25 **Night Thoughts:** with the Rev Bill Todd. His theme is *Second Sight*.

12.50 **Open University:** Images (seeing with sound); 12.15 **The Public Inquiry:** the M40 extension between Oxford and Warwick. Ends at 12.45.

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BEC 2

6.05 **Open University:** (ends at 8.10) Maths; 6.30 **Conflict in the Family:** 6.55 **Social Pressure:** good timing; 7.20 **Meaning of Madness:** 7.45 **Classical Greece:** social life.

10.30 **Play School:** same as BBC 1, 4.20; Close down at 10.55.

5.10 **Resources for Learning:** Open University film about Avon teachers who have to cope with classes made up of pupils of widely differing abilities.

5.40 **F.A.C.T.S.:** Third film in this series showing how amateur footballers can improve their game. Today: shooting. With Kevin Keegan, Terry Venables, and other experts (1).

6.05 **Disaster:** Perilous film in this series about Britain in uniform. Tonight, the story of HMS Amethyst, the British frigate that made a famous dash for freedom up the Yangtze river when China was the grip of civil war in 1949 (1).

6.55 **News:** with sub-titles.

7.00 **Open Space:** Community Programme Unit film called *Ducking the Rocks - a Social Worker's Life*. Filmed in South Wales (see Choice).

7.30 **Cameo:** The wildlife, and natural beauty of Dartmoor, photographed by Ronald Eastman.

7.40 **Wheels of Film:** Next Year, May... Final episode of this film series about India today. Tonight, a land reform project in West Bengal, one of the few such projects in the country. We see its effects on the lives of landless labourers and share-croppers and their families.

8.10 **Film: Harry and Tonto (1974):** Comedy, trimmed with drama, about an elderly widower (Art Carney) and his cat, when they are evicted from their New York apartment, start a long trek across the United States. The cast also includes Eli Wallach, Larry Hagman, George, and Charly Hagen. Directed by Paul Mazursky.

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CHOICE

author's files for any three successive days and the odds are that, with slight variations, the case history will be repeated. These are the files for the "lonely" elderly, confined to their homes; the elderly found wandering on local beaches at night; the youngsters who see the social worker as "the evil eye" who is about to take them away from their mothers and fathers; the old and the young who are not at the everyday level - the front doors that open to reveal a horse, or a portrait of the social worker as a man/woman who has to be all things to all men/women/children.

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campaigning journalism and the next best thing, a revamping of someone else's. It makes no secret of the latter, and *Panorama* and *The Guardian* take their bow in the second half of tonight's double-bill which deals with a report on alcohol and health, prepared by the Government's "think-tank" in 1978 and kept deep-frozen by Whitehall ever since though available in local libraries thanks to the tank's springing a leak. Official lips remain sealed, however, in tonight's other story, that of a giant chemical plant in Yorkshire and of the farming couple with an unimpaired view of its belching chimneys who, perforce, have become amateur graduates in pollution, complete with expensive equipment and log-books. Because the local council refuses to talk to them, presenter-interviewer Ed Boyle emits detectable high levels of irony.

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Day to apologize to Foot over confidence slip

Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster, said last night that he was writing to Mr Michael Foot to apologize for breaking a confidence in a sudden outburst during a debate with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, at the Edinburgh international television festival.

Sir Robin said that Mr Foot had told him he believed Mrs Thatcher had no alternative to sinking the Argentine battleship, the Belgrano.

The admission stunned the audience of broadcasters and journalists, which included Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, Mr Roy Hattersley, and Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Transport, as chief guests.

Mr Hattersley immediately asked Sir Robin where and when Mr Foot had made the remark, and if it was made in private. Sir Robin said that it was Mr Hattersley's remark that "I won't have a private conversation with you again".

The broadcaster replied: "I knew we would not get through the afternoon without you making a cheap remark."

Mr Dalyell had asked during the festival's general election coverage why he had not questioned Mrs Thatcher on the sinking of the Belgrano. Sir Robin said that both he and television editors did not think that the sinking was an election issue.

When Mr Dalyell took up the subject again, Sir Robin rounded on him and shouted: "Mr Foot did not think that Mrs Thatcher had any alternative to sinking the Belgrano. He said it was not an election issue, and that he did not want to talk about it when I interviewed him."

As Mr Hattersley left the debate early to catch a train to another function he said that Sir Robin's remark had been a breach of confidence.

Sir Robin said afterwards: "I gave an honest answer because Tam Dalyell was being very provocative".

Later he added: "I am sorry that during the cut and thrust of a lively professional argument about television election coverage I disclosed the gist of what Mr Michael Foot had said privately to me some months ago about the sinking of the Belgrano."

"I am writing to Mr Foot to apologize for this disclosure, and to explain it was made only in the heat of the moment in answer to a challenge from Mr Tam Dalyell."

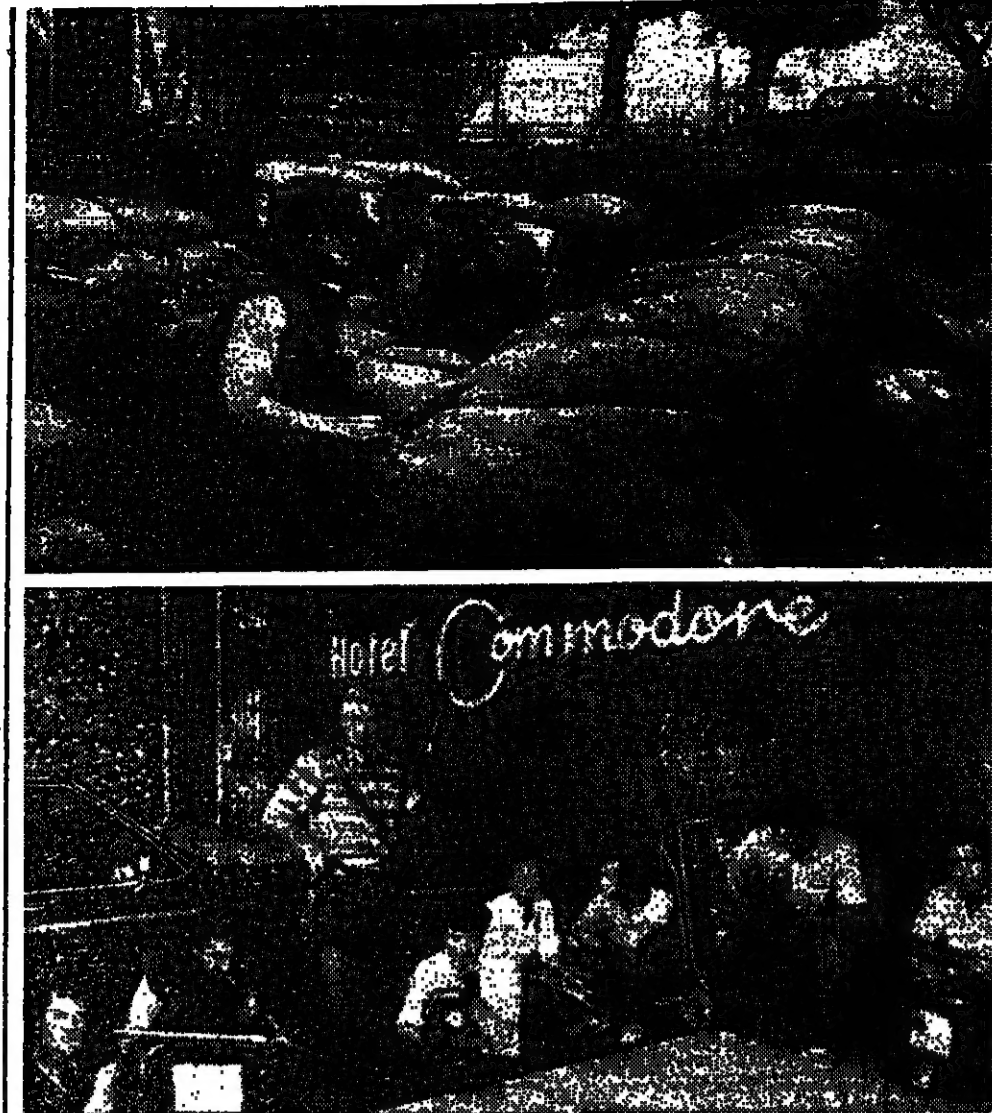
Mr Richard Clements, one of the Labour leaders' aides, said last night: "Michael Foot is away on holiday. He is not contactable at the moment."

During the election campaign, Mr Neil Kinnock, the favourite candidate to succeed Mr Foot, called for a full-scale investigation into the sinking of the Belgrano. But it was noted at the time that when the demand was put to Mr Foot, at Labour's campaign press conference on June 2, he refused to answer Mr Kinnock's view.

Earlier in the debate, Mr Hattersley said that the Labour Party had lost the general election because of its own failings, not because it was the victim of antagonistic newspapers and television companies.

"This election was determined before the first television camera moved into the first press conference," he said.

All that the media could do was to magnify features which were already established by the parties, he said. "We lost the general election for the Labour Party."



Front-line Beirut: US Marines in a fox hole and TV crews trapped in an hotel with, right, Lebanese troops loading a helicopter with arms

Lebanon drifts to civil war

Continued from page 1

One of the few respected Muslim elder statesmen in the country - he represented Lebanon in talks with President Reagan earlier this year - condemned the Muslim militias and stood up for the Government.

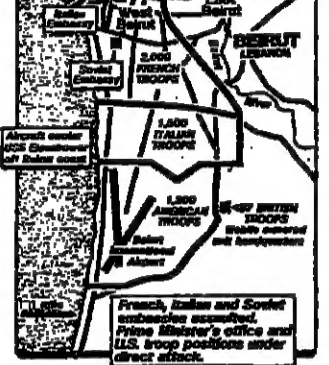
Here Fisk's report was again interrupted: "I got to go now as bullets are going up street outside window. Back soon as I can all received OK so far please."

Whether at this late stage his words will be respected can only be a matter of conjecture. But with the Lebanese Army still unable to control even their own capital, their chances of being able to advance into the Chouf mountains and pacify the Druze militias there now appear to be almost non-existent.

Israeli troops had already begun their withdrawal from the hills, pulling out positions around the town of Aley when the Israelis briefly suspended their withdrawal at America's request. How

the Lebanese Army is supposed to complete its battles in Beirut in the next two or three days and then fight on into the mountains is something the Government has understandably chosen not to explain.

Beirut itself is now in a state of near civil war and Mr Gemayel must be wondering how long he can remain president of a country



whose capital he can only control by sending his troops into action against Muslim militias. The multinational force is now under fire every day - a barrage of 155 millimetre shells, probably fired from Syrian-controlled areas, yesterday landed in the Italian army's logistics compound, wounding four Italian soldiers - and Mr Reagan will soon have to decide whether to increase the number of US marines here or abandon Mr Gemayel altogether.

The next few days - some would say the next forty-eight hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state.

Fisk's sign-off message read: "Lebanese Army has now passed the office here. Will try and update during evening but things very difficult and cannot even cross road outside at present. Bombardment now over, though. Counting the cost, page 7"



Zimbabwe officers freed, then rearrested

Continued from page 1

Air Vice-Marshal Slater, his arm around his wife Jane, who is recovering from a car accident, was asked if the officers would remain in Zimbabwe. "That will have to depend on our families and the Prime Minister," he replied.

After about 15 minutes the officers were asked by official to leave the court to be issued with warrants of liberation and were conducted to an office below. There they were instead handed new detention orders.

As word spread among the crowds outside the reaction was first shock and then anger. "Was it all for?" asked one bitterly. Shouts of "Shame" followed the officers down to the cells.

It was the fourth trial this year in which a total of nine white and six black accused have been acquitted and re-detained on Dr Ushewokunze's orders.

The latest case will be regarded with particular seriousness in Whitehall as Air Commodore Pile, Wing Commander Cox, Air Lieutenant Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Weir have dual British and Zimbabwean nationality.

British response: News of the rearrest of the six men brought a swift response in Whitehall when the Foreign Office immediately instructed the British High Commission in Harare to "clarify the position urgently". Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent writes.

A spokesman said in an unusually strongly worded statement: "We welcome the fact that the judge found all the accused not guilty. We are very disturbed by news of their re-detention."

Parents' agency: The Struma parents of one of the men acquitted of treason in Zimbabwe planned to celebrate last night before they learned of the new detention order.

Mrs Barbara Cox said she and her husband, the Rev William Cox, aged 68, had been going through agony during the year since their son, Wing Commander John Cox, aged 37, was arrested. Mrs Cox, a Fishponds, Bristol, said: "The verdict is an answer to our prayers. My husband has been weeping tears of joy."

"We were expecting him to be acquitted. We know he is innocent, but in a country like that you never know what can happen."

"I think they will hold him in a while but I'm sure they will eventually release him. After a he has been proved innocent."

Racial overtones, page 1

David Steel back on duty

Mr David Steel the Liberal leader returned to duty yesterday for the first time since the start of his 10 weeks sabbatical.

He appeared in a debate on television coverage of the General Election. "I am feeling fantastic and looking forward to coming back. I am enjoying the rest. I would recommend it to anybody. It makes a lot of sense after seven years as leader to take a break."

Mr Steel, who was said by his doctor to be suffering from a virus infection, said he would not make any political statements before the Liberal assembly at Harrogate on September 19. He appeared

confident and at ease throughout the engagement, part of the Edinburgh Television Festival.

He said he had accepted the invitation to appear as a panellist with Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Tom King, Transport Secretary, sometime ago. It was not a political occasion.

"If I had been asked, for example, to appear on Panorama with Mr Hattersley and Mr King, the answer would have been negative."

He said that at no time during his break had he been tempted to answer criticisms of his leadership from factions within the party.

Continued from page 1

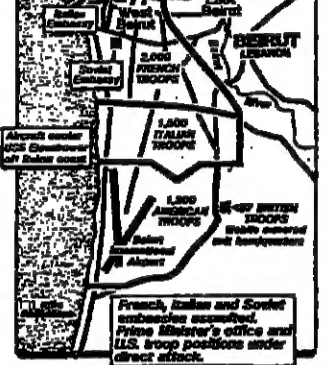
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Greek anger at 'damage' to Marbles

From Mario Modiano Athens

A leading Greek conservation expert has accused the British Museum of causing irreversible damage to the statue of the caryatid from the Elgin collection by coating it with plastic film.

Dr Theodore Skoulikidis, professor of Physical Chemistry at the Athens Polytechnic, who is on the Acropolis conservation committee, said that he had a letter from Dr David Wilson, Director of the British Museum, admitting that he had covered the caryatid with a "water-soluble polymer" to protect it from decay. "It has been established," said Professor Skoulikidis, "that the coating of ancient marbles with plastic is dangerous and speeds up rather than arrests decay. The British Museum is already having problems with the caryatid."

Thousands of gas jobs to go

Continued from page 1

coordinated nationally... To this end national redundancy terms are being improved", it said.

Mr Michael Meacher, the Labour MP who is standing for the party's deputy leadership, described the omission as a serious breach of the public. "My information in what purports to be a full, honest report is being withheld," he told the magazine.

A table also omitted from the report shows that 1,080 jobs were expected to be shed by 1987, but the magazine makes clear that these have already been superseded by new plans to shed, at least 7,000 jobs in the next four years.

Senior executives at the corporation confirm that it plans to reduce its manpower well below 90,000 by 1990.

Industrial notebook, page 17

Parents' agency: The Struma

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

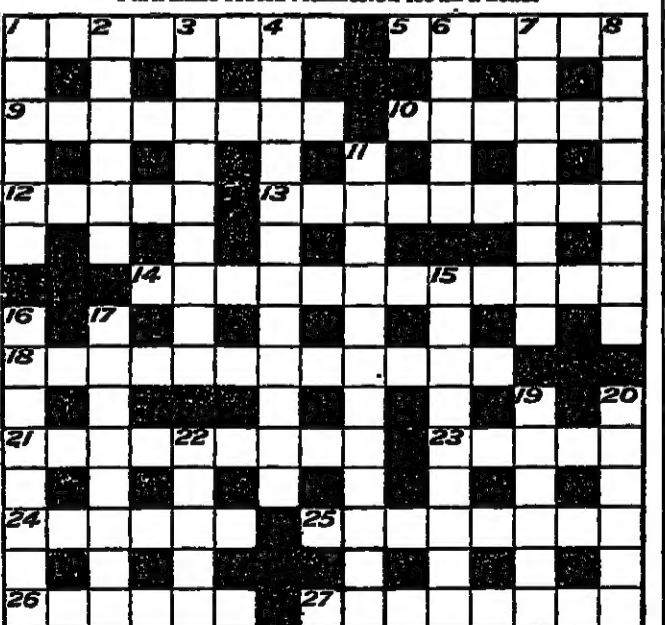
Today's events

Music
Music from the Praise Singers, Ivory Coast, The Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.
The Glenlivet Fireworks Concert, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, 10pm.
Recital by Tessa Ballard (oboe)

and Tony Gray (piano), St Mary's Centre, Aylesbury, Bucks, 1.10.
Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle, 8.
Recital by John Shirley-Quirk with Sarah Watkins (oboe) and Martin Isopp (piano), Simon Place Heritage Trust, Sutton Place, nr Guildford, Surrey, 7.30.
Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,223

Collins Dictionary's Times Crossword Championship 1983
The National Final takes place next Sunday, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m. at the Park Lane Hotel. Admission fee £2 a head.



- ACROSS**
- Woolen headgear a danger in plant (8).
 - Poured insults on America in retirement (6).
 - Sort of bodily harm alleged against man in charge (8).
 - Ballerina deserted by a physiologist (6).
 - Revolver for chopper (5).
 - Like US Defense HQ getting 20% increase? (9).
 - Go in terror at brutal treatment of questionmaster (12).
 - Rescue about fifty clubs from harsh employers (5-7).
 - Lame radio operators go to town in Herts (9).
 - Oriental looks like a Scotsman (5).
 - With learned cleric brought in man of action is seen to tremble (6).
 - Offering effective consumer resistance (8).
 - Swift flying resort of gullible spectators (6).
 - Transport to excavate an early Welsh urban settlement? (8).
- DOWN**
- Poet upset at evidence of carnage (6).
 - Half life of Man's turnover yet to be worked out (6).

CONCISE CROSSWORD, PAGE 8

Talks

The City, Dead or Alive, by Rev Alan Broadbent, The Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, 11.

Walks

Ramble Down the Rea, meet at Birmingham Nature Centre, Fen Road, Edgbaston, start at 10.30 to 12 and 2.30 to 4.

General

Longshaw Sheep Dog Trials, Longshaw Pastures, Fox House, nr Sheffield, Derby, 8 to 7.

Exhibitions in progress

Works of Albert Irvin, Ikon Gallery, 36-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Sept 17).
Celtic Art Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (ends Oct 4).
Road Safety Posters: The World's Glasgow Museum of Transport, 33 Albert Drive Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Sept 30).
Leading entries for the design competition for a new gallery for the Oriental Museum, University of Durham School of Oriental Studies, Elvet Hill, Durham, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 1.15 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 12, closed Sun (ends Sept 30).
Take a Seat chairs by British furniture makers, the Cirencoor Workshops, Brewery Court, Cirencoor, Glouce, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Sept 24).
Three Railway Views of Wales: photographs by Norman Neale, for Higgs' s R O Tuck, Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Buttrick Street, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 to 5 (ends Sept 19).
European and American Art Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Inverleith House, Royal Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun and Mon (ends Sept 25).
Eighteenth Century Costume, and 200 years of Local Transport, two exhibitions at Fairbairn, the Buddle Salterton Arts Centre and Museum, Mon to Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Oct).

New exhibitions

Recent etchings and watercolours by Peter Thomas, Trizna, 24 Salisbury Road, Mosley, Birmingham: Mon to Fri 10 to 4, Wed 10 to 7.30, closed Sat and Sun (closed Sept 10).
Colouring Metals, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford, Fri to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 4, closed Sun and Mon (closed Oct 8).

Anniversaries

Births: Edward Albee, actor and founder of Delacorte College, London, 1566; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist (*Tarzan of the Apes*), Chicago, 1875. Deaths: Nicholas Breakspear, the only Englishman to become Pope (reigned 1643-1715), Versailles 1715; Samuel Taylor-Coleridge, composer, Croydon, 1912; W. W. Jacobs, writer of short stories, London, 1913.

New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Bridge of People, a Personal View of Oxford's First Forty Years, by Ben Whitaker (Heinemann, £4.95)
Dante the Maker, by William Anderson (Hutchinson, £7.95)
Pulsed & English: Poetries, by Rudolf Winkler (Thames & Hudson, £7.95)
Pink Triangle and Yellow Star, and other essays, by Gore Vidal (Granada, £1.95)
The Arms Race, by Michael Sheehan (Martin Robertson, £5.95)
The Crown King and the Spring Queen, by Naomi Mitchison (Virago, £4.95)
The Essential Rebecca West (Penguin, £4.95)
The Great Wine Book, by Janice Robinson (Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95)
The Megalithic Monuments of Western Europe, edited by Colin Renfrew (Thames & Hudson, £4.95)
The Miller's Dance, by Winston Graham (Fonsie, £1.95)

The papers

The Washington Post said that Mr Begin was wrong in working hard to sidetrack President Reagan's plan, exactly a year ago, for a negotiated West Bank peace. It said: "Mr Begin's successor will have no reason to question the strength and passion of his commitment to the security of the Jewish state or the fact that he did have some notable achievements in pursuing that security. What that successor should ponder is whether the Begin policy has not by now accomplished everything of usefulness it possibly can and has now turned out to be a change not just of people but of policy as well."

Why is London Transport threatening to sack its only well-known employee, Mr Chris Hughes, the winner of Mastermind Ireland? The paper points out that Mr Hughes has an encyclopaedic memory and is now open to offers of work. So anyone who needs a Underground train driver who knows when the Thirty Years War ended should get in touch with him immediately. Otherwise the brainy Mr Hughes may face the hardest question one that has already stumped four million people. "Where can I get a job?"

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Rate	Sale
Australia \$	1.76	1.68
Belgium Fr	25.20	27.80
Canada \$	84.00	88.00
Denmark Kr	1.90	1.82
Finland Mk	15.02	14.32
France Fr	8.52	8.52
Germany DM	12.51	11.96
Greece Dr	4.17	3.97
Hong Kong \$	149.00	137.00
Ireland Pt	11.60	11.00
Italy Lira	1.32	1.26
Japan Yen	238.00	236.00
Netherlands Gld	4.67	4.45
Norway Kr	11.63	11.86
Portugal Esc	189.50	181.50
South Africa Rd	2.00	1.85
Spain Ptas	233.75	222.75
Sweden Kr	12.30	11.70
Switzerland Fr	3.30	3.22
USA \$	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dnr	202.00	175.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 336.3 London: The FT index closed down 8.9 at 707.4.

Roads

London and South-east: A501: congestion in Moorgate, City of London, on southbound carriageway. A281: Temporary signals on Shaftford Road, Guildford, Surrey. A33: Single-lane traffic on Winchester by-pass, Hampshire.
Midlands: A52: All traffic sharing one carriageway at Bramcote, Nottinghamshire. M6: All traffic sharing one side of motorway between junctions 10 and 11. Wales and Carmarthen: M1: Two-way traffic on one carriageway between junctions 15 and 16, Northampton.
Wales and West: M5: Lane closures between junctions 26 and 27 (Wellingborough and Tiverton). A483: Roadworks and temporary traffic lights at Ammanford, Dyfed.
Long delay, M5: All traffic sharing northbound carriageway between junctions 8 (M50 junction) and 9 (A587).
North: A1: Two-way traffic on one carriageway between Fairburn and Middlethorpe, West Yorkshire. M55 and A583: Extra traffic for Blackpool illuminations. M62: All traffic sharing one carriageway between junctions 10 (M1) and junction 30 (Rothwell).
Scotland: A7: Temporary traffic lights south of Gorebridge. Middlethorpe, A52: Contraflow at Stonehouse Road, south of Cairnryan. Road, city of Aberdeen. A87: Single-lane traffic on temporary traffic lights at Invermarish, south of Dornoch. Ross and Cromarty.

Information supplied by AA

Swimming safety

We can still hope for some fine late holiday weather and the Central Office of Information calls for care when swimming. Always look out for warning flags and signs, and only swim when and where it's safe to do so. Most important of all, the swimmer should know his capabilities and swim within them. Even though he might be a powerful swimmer he might not be as fit as he thinks he is. He should also be especially careful about tides, currents and cold water, and never swim alone after taking a heavy meal or drinking alcohol.

Beirut ban

The British Embassy in Beirut has advised against anyone from Britain visiting the city "until further notice". It had already warned the 4,000 British subjects living in Lebanon to stay indoors and make no attempt to travel.

Weather forecast

A frontal trough lying over W Britain will clear slowly E

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, England, East Angles: Misty at first; outbreaks of rain, becoming more persistent then drying out later; wind variable mainly SE light becoming NW moderate; max temp 19 to 21C (66 to 70F).
Central S England, E, W Midlands: Cloudy, occasional drizzle; rain drying out, sunny intervals developing; wind SE, light veering NW moderate; max temp 18C or 20C (64 to 68F).
Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain drying out; sunnier intervals developing; scattered showers; wind variable light, becoming NW or W moderate or fresh; max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
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